

1 **LEXINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE POLICY**

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3	First Reading:	November 30, 2010
4	Second Reading:	December 14, 2010
5	Date Approved by	
6	School Committee:	December 14, 2010
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8	Signature of Chair:	_____ On File_____
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13 The Lexington Public Schools (LPS), in partnership with parents, guardians, and the community,
14 and in keeping with the LPS core value of respect for human differences, believes that a positive,
15 safe, and civil environment in school is necessary for students to learn and achieve. Bullying is
conduct that can disrupt a student's

1 Cyber-bullying shall also include the distribution by electronic means of a communication to
2 more than one person or the posting of material on an electronic medium that may be accessed
3 by one or more persons, if the distribution or posting creates any of the conditions enumerated in
4 the definition of bullying.

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6 Bullying and cyber-bullying can occur in and out of school, during and after school hours, at
7 home and in locations outside of home. When bullying and cyber-bullying are alleged, the full
8 cooperation and assistance of parents or guardians and their families are expected.

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10 For the purpose of this policy, whenever the term bullying is used, it is to denote either bullying,
11 or cyber-bullying.

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13 Bullying is prohibited:

- 14 • on school grounds;
- 15 • on property immediately adjacent to school grounds;
- 16 • at school-sponsored or school-related activities, functions or programs, whether on or off
17 school grounds;
- 18 • at school bus stops;
- 19 • on school buses or other vehicles owned, leased or used by the school district; or,
- 20 • through the use of technology on an electronic device owned, leased or used by the LPS;

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23 Bullying and cyber-bullying are prohibited at a location, activity, function or program that is not
24 school-related or through the use of technology on an electronic device that is not owned, leased
25 or used by the LPS if the act or acts in question:

- 26 • create a hostile learning and/or social environment at school for the target;
- 27 • infringe on the rights of the target at school; and/or
- 28 • materially and substantially disrupt the education process or the orderly operation of a
29 school.

30 31 32 Prevention and Intervention Plan

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34 The superintendent or designee shall oversee development of a prevention and intervention
35 plan, in consultation with all district stakeholders, which may include parents and guardians,
36 teachers, school staff, professional support personnel, school volunteers, administrators,
37 community representatives, local law enforcement agencies, and students, consistent with the
38 requirements of this policy, as well as state and federal laws. The bullying prevention and
39 intervention plan shall be reviewed and updated at least biennially.

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41 A principal or designee is responsible for the implementation and oversight of the bullying
42 prevention and implementation plan within his or her school.

43 44 Reporting

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46 Students who believe that they are a target of bullying are encouraged and urged to report the
47 matter to a member of the school staff. Students who observe an act of bullying, or who have
48 reasonable grounds to believe that these behaviors are taking place, are obligated to report

- 1 incidents to a member of the school staff, and be subject to discipline for failing to report
- 2 such incidents. However, the target shall not be subject to discipline for failing to report bullying.
- 3
- 4 A member of a school staff shall immediately report to the school principal or designee any
- 5 instance of suspected bullying that a staff member has witnessed or become aware of. If the staff
- 6 member fails to do so, he or she may be subject to disciplinary action.
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- 8 Parents or guardians, or members of the community, are encouraged to report an incident of
- 9 suspected bullying as soon as possible to a school principal.
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- 11 Each school shall have a means for anonymous reporting by students of incidents of suspected

1 Disciplinary actions for students who are found to have committed an act of bullying or
2 retaliation shall be in accordance with LPS disciplinary policies.

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4 Assistance

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6 The LPS may provide appropriate counseling or referral to appropriate services, including, but
7 not limited to, guidance, academic intervention, and protection to any affected students, as
8 necessary.

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10 Documentation

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12 Each school shall document any incident of bullying that is reported per this policy, and the
13 principal or a designee shall maintain a file of these reports.

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15 The superintendent or designee shall inform the School Committee periodically of any trends or
16 implications of these reports in order to give the School Committee the opportunity to review
17 and amend this policy.

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19 Confidentiality shall be maintained consistent with the school's obligations under law.

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21 Retaliation

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23 Reprisal or retaliation against any person associated with a report of bullying or the investigation
thereof is prohibited. Disciplinary action for any person

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11 in disciplinary action for any person associated with a report of bullying or the investigation thereof is prohibited. Disciplinary action for any person

