JFCE: STUDENT BULLYING POLICY –approved August 13, 2012

The Elkton School District is committed to maintaining a constructive, safe school climate that is conducive to student learning and fostering an environment in which all students are treated with respect and dignity.

Persistent bullying can severely inhibit a student’s ability to learn and may have lasting negative effects on a student’s life. The bullying of students by students, staff or third parties is strictly prohibited and shall not be tolerated.

Bullying is a pattern of repeated conduct that causes physical hurt or psychological distress on one or more students that may include threats, intimidation, stalking, physical violence, theft, destruction of property, any threatening use of data or computer software, written or verbal communication, or conduct directed against a student that:

1. Places a student in reasonable fear or harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property; and either
2. Substantially interferes with a student’s educational performance; or
3. Substantially disrupts the orderly operation of a school.

Bullying also includes retaliation against a student for asserting or alleging an act of bullying.

This policy is in effect while students are on property within the jurisdiction of the board; while students are in school-owned or school-operated vehicles; while students are attending or engaged in school-sponsored activities; and while students are away from school grounds if the misconduct directly affects the good order, efficient management and welfare of the school district.

It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent and administration to develop administrative regulations, in accordance with this policy, to protect the district’s students from the harmful effects of bullying. Regulations accompanying this policy shall include, but are not limited to:

1. Additional definitions, if necessary, to assist in the implementation of this policy;
2. A procedure to report incidents of bullying;
3. A process to investigate reported acts of bullying;
4. A procedure, consistent with district policy, to provide appropriate consequences for any individual found to have engaged in bullying;
5. A statement prohibiting retaliation against individuals who, in good faith, report acts of bullying; and
6. A process to inform staff, students and parents of the district’s bullying prevention policies and efforts.

This policy shall not be interpreted to prohibit civil exchange of opinions or debate protected under the state or federal constitution where the opinion expressed does not otherwise materially or substantially disrupt the education process or intrude upon the rights of others.