

BUFFALO VALLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
**BULLYING, INTIMIDATION, &
HARASSMENT POLICY REVIEW**

Local Strategies to Reduce Threats and Handle Formal Reports of Bullying

School Year: 2026–2027

Purpose

Buffalo Valley Public Schools is committed to providing a safe, respectful, and supportive educational environment for every student and employee. Bullying, intimidation, harassment, threatening behavior, and retaliation interfere with the educational process and will not be tolerated.

The district will take reasonable and appropriate measures to prevent bullying, identify concerning behavior, provide students and employees with accessible reporting procedures, promptly investigate formal reports, protect students from retaliation, and implement appropriate interventions and disciplinary actions.

This policy and the district's procedures will be reviewed annually in accordance with applicable Oklahoma law, including the Oklahoma School Safety and Bullying Prevention Act.

Local Strategies Implemented to Reduce Bullying and Threats

Buffalo Valley Public Schools uses a schoolwide approach to prevent bullying, intimidation, harassment, and threatening behavior. Prevention strategies include:

1. Visible Administrative and Staff Presence

Administrators, teachers, and support personnel provide active supervision in classrooms, hallways, cafeterias, playgrounds, athletic facilities, buses, parking areas, and other locations where students gather. Staff members are expected to intervene when they observe behavior that may threaten student safety.

2. Clear Behavioral Expectations

Students are regularly reminded that bullying, intimidation, harassment, threats, retaliation, and other conduct that creates an unsafe school environment are prohibited. Expectations are communicated through student handbooks, classroom expectations, assemblies, parent communication, and individual student conferences.

3. Staff Training

School personnel receive required training regarding the prevention, identification, response, and reporting of bullying. Training emphasizes recognizing warning signs, responding promptly to student concerns, documenting incidents, protecting confidentiality to the extent permitted by law, and immediately reporting serious safety concerns to administration.

4. Student Education and Prevention

Age-appropriate instruction and discussions are used to promote kindness, respect, responsible decision-making, digital citizenship, conflict resolution, and appropriate methods for reporting concerns. Students are encouraged to report concerning behavior involving themselves or others.

5. Increased Supervision Following Concerns

When patterns of bullying, intimidation, harassment, or threatening behavior are identified, administrators may increase adult supervision in specific locations or during particular times of the school day.

6. School Safety Coordination

Administrators work with teachers, counselors, school personnel, parents/guardians, the district Safe School Committee, and law enforcement when appropriate to identify and respond to potential threats.

7. Social Media and Electronic Communication Awareness

Reports involving social media, text messages, electronic communications, photographs, videos, or other digital content that may affect the school environment are reviewed by administration. Students and parents

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are encouraged to preserve screenshots, messages, usernames, dates, times, and other relevant evidence rather than deleting or responding to threatening communications.

8. Threat Assessment and Immediate Safety Response

Statements or behaviors indicating a credible or potential threat of violence are immediately referred to school administration. Law enforcement, emergency services, parents/guardians, and other appropriate agencies may be contacted depending upon the nature and severity of the threat.

Procedures for Reporting Bullying, Intimidation, or Harassment

Students, parents/guardians, employees, and other individuals are encouraged to report suspected bullying, intimidation, harassment, or threatening behavior as soon as possible.

Reports may be made to a teacher, principal, superintendent, counselor, or other designated school employee. Students may also use the district's anonymous reporting procedure.

School employees who receive information concerning possible bullying or threatening behavior shall promptly report the information to the appropriate administrator in accordance with district procedures.

A person making a report should provide as much information as possible, including:

- Names of individuals involved;
- Date, time, and location of the incident;
- Description of what occurred;
- Names of witnesses;
- Whether similar incidents have previously occurred;
- Copies or screenshots of electronic communications, when applicable; and
- Any information suggesting an immediate safety concern.

A lack of complete information will not prevent the district from reviewing a report.

Formal Investigation Procedures

When Buffalo Valley Public Schools receives a formal report of suspected bullying, intimidation, or harassment, administration will initiate an appropriate review or investigation.

The investigation may include interviews with the reporting student, alleged target, alleged aggressor, witnesses, teachers, staff members, and other individuals who may have relevant information.

Administrators may also review written statements, surveillance footage, electronic communications, screenshots, photographs, disciplinary records, and other available evidence as permitted by law.

Information obtained during an investigation will be shared only with individuals who have a legitimate educational, safety, or legal need for the information.

The administrator will document the report, investigative steps, findings, interventions, and actions taken in accordance with district procedures.

Determining Whether Bullying Occurred

Not every disagreement, conflict, argument, or instance of inappropriate behavior constitutes bullying. Administration will evaluate the facts and circumstances of each report using the definition of bullying established by Oklahoma law and district policy.

The district will consider the nature, frequency, severity, context, and impact of the reported conduct and any other relevant circumstances.

Regardless of whether conduct meets the legal or policy definition of bullying, inappropriate student behavior may still violate other provisions of the district's student discipline policy and may result in intervention or disciplinary action.

Response and Intervention

When bullying, intimidation, harassment, threatening behavior, or another policy violation is substantiated, Buffalo Valley Public Schools will take appropriate action based upon the circumstances and severity of the incident.

Responses may include parent/guardian conferences, counseling or student support services, increased supervision, behavioral interventions, safety planning, schedule or seating adjustments when appropriate, loss of privileges, disciplinary consequences consistent with district policy, referral to outside services, or referral to law enforcement when warranted.

Interventions should address both immediate safety and the prevention of future incidents.

Protection Against Retaliation

Retaliation against any student, employee, parent/guardian, or other person who makes a good-faith report, participates in an investigation, or provides information concerning bullying, intimidation, harassment, or threatening behavior is prohibited.

Reports of retaliation will be investigated and addressed promptly.

Parent/Guardian Communication

Parents or guardians of students involved in reported incidents will be contacted as appropriate and consistent with applicable confidentiality requirements.

School officials will communicate available information regarding safety concerns, interventions, and supports while protecting confidential student information as required by law.

Law Enforcement and Emergency Situations

Bullying reports involving credible threats of violence, weapons, assault, stalking, extortion, suspected criminal activity, or an immediate danger to students or employees may be referred to law enforcement.

Any immediate threat to the safety of students, employees, or the school community will be treated as a safety matter first.

School personnel should immediately contact administration and emergency services or law enforcement when circumstances require an emergency response.

Documentation and Follow-Up

Administration will maintain appropriate documentation of reported incidents and investigations in accordance with district procedures and applicable law.

Following a substantiated incident or significant safety concern, administrators or designated staff will conduct appropriate follow-up to determine whether:

- The behavior has stopped;
- Retaliation has occurred;
- Additional supervision is necessary;
- The student feels safe at school;
- Additional counseling or support is needed; and
- Additional intervention or disciplinary action is necessary.

Safe School Committee Review

The Buffalo Valley Public Schools Safe School Committee will annually review school safety conditions and bullying prevention efforts and make recommendations to administration regarding areas of concern, prevention strategies, professional development needs, student involvement, and community involvement.

Information from reports and incidents may be reviewed in an appropriate, non-identifying manner to identify patterns, locations, times, or circumstances requiring additional prevention measures.

Annual Policy Review

Buffalo Valley Public Schools will review its bullying prevention policy and procedures annually and make revisions when necessary to maintain compliance with Oklahoma law and address the safety needs of the district.

The review should include consideration of:

- Current Oklahoma statutory and regulatory requirements;
- Reporting and investigation procedures;
- Anonymous reporting procedures;
- Staff training requirements;
- Student and parent notification;
- Patterns or trends identified through incident data;
- Effectiveness of current prevention strategies;
- Recommendations from the Safe School Committee; and
- Opportunities to improve school climate and student safety.

District Commitment

Buffalo Valley Public Schools believes maintaining a safe school environment is a shared responsibility among students, parents, employees, administrators, community members, and law enforcement partners.

See it. Report it. Help keep Buffalo Valley safe.

Students and families are encouraged to report concerning behavior early so that school officials can evaluate the situation and take appropriate action before behavior escalates.

Annual Review Documentation

Policy Reviewed for School Year:	2026-2027
Date Reviewed:	9/14/26
Reviewed By:	Buffalo Valley School Board
Safe School Committee Review Date:	9/9/26
Superintendent/Designee / Date:	Krista Curley / Krista Curley / 9/14/26
Board Review/Approval / Date:	9/14/26

Recommended Revisions:
