



## Method Schools Board Policy BP 7.1

### Bullying and Intimidation

Method Schools believes that all students have a right to a safe and healthy school environment. To that end, the schools and community have an obligation to promote mutual respect, tolerance, and acceptance. Method Schools will not tolerate any act of intimidation including direct physical contact, gestures, comments, threats or actions, either written, verbal or physical, which cause, threaten to cause or are likely to cause bodily harm, social isolation, manipulation, or personal degradation at any school site, at any school activity whether on or off campus, while traveling to and from school or a school sponsored activity, or during the lunch period, whether on or off the school site.

The consequences of these actions may include a broad range of disciplinary measures as appropriate; however, every effort will also be taken to provide or locate appropriate assistance for both the victim and the offender.

For the purpose of this administrative regulation, bullying is, but is not limited to, making unsolicited and unwelcome written, verbal, physical and/or threatening visual gestures or contact.

- Written – intimidating/threatening letters, notes, or messages
- Verbal – intimidating/threatening comments, slurs, innuendos, teasing, jokes, or epithets
- Visual – threatening gestures
- Physical – hitting, slapping and/or pinching
- Initial Response and Reporting Expectations

Method Schools expects all employees, if they observe or become aware of an act of intimidation, to take immediate, appropriate steps to intervene.

### Investigation and Response

Any incident, which may constitute an act of intimidation and is reported to the Director/Principal, shall be thoroughly investigated by the site administrator or designee. Consequences shall be commensurate with the results of the investigation. This may include, but is not limited to, counseling, parent conference, detention, involuntary transfer, a formal suspension and/or expulsion of the offender. The parent or guardian shall be contacted and may be asked to attend a conference with school officials.

Board Approved: 1/13/15