

**NEPN Code: JPCE**

**Students  
Student Bullying Policy**

Freeman Public School District 33-1 provides this bullying policy as an element of its ongoing effort to maintain a school climate that is conducive to learning and which fosters an environment in which all people are treated with dignity and respect.

Freeman Public Schools defines bullying as: *Bullying is action by a person or group involving an intention to hurt, a hurtful action, a power imbalance, (typically but not always) repetition, an unjust use of power, and a justifiable sense of being oppressed on the part of the victim.*

Victims of bullying are sometimes targeted because they are perceived as being inadequate by the perpetrator in attributes which may include but are not limited to: *Race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, culture, social origin or condition, political affiliation, mental, physical, or sensory disability, physical ability, physical development, and other attributes.*

School activities and school provided transportation to and from activities and school are considered an extension of the school day and fall within the authority of the administration of the building where the victim and perpetrator attend school. In addition, bullying activities outside of school grounds and hours may be viewed as extensions of school activities and on school premises.

Employees of Freeman Public Schools are required to report incidents of or suspicion of bullying to their direct supervisor. Students and parents are encouraged to report bullying to the Principal or Counselor in the building where the incidents took place. Copies of the Student Bullying Incident Reporting Form may be obtained from the Counselor or Principal in the building where the victim attends schools. Victims who report acts of bullying or suspected acts of bullying can be assured that Freeman Public Schools will respond firmly to acts of retribution by the perpetrator or accused perpetrator. Such acts of retribution would result in further sanctions against the perpetrator or accused perpetrator which may include; detention, suspension, expulsion, as well as reports to law enforcement.

Consequences for students who bully others depends upon the results of investigations and may include counseling, a parent conference, detention, suspension, up to and including expulsion. Depending on the severity of the incident, the administration may also take appropriate steps to ensure student safety. These may include implementing a safety plan, separating and supervising the students involved, providing staff support for students as necessary, reporting incidents to law enforcement if appropriate, and developing a supervision plan with parents.

Accusations of bullying are serious and taken seriously by school personnel. Knowingly, falsely accusing someone of being a bully is unacceptable and will result in action taken against the person making the false accusations. This action may include; detention, suspension, up to and including expulsion. Freeman Public School District policy regarding notice and due process will be followed.

**Legal References:**

- SDCL 13-32-14 Adoption of bullying policy**
- SDCL 13-32-15 Bullying defined**
- SDCL 13-32-16 Bullying policy requirements**
- SDCL 13-32-19 Model bullying policy**