

**BULLYING PREVENTION AND EDUCATION POLICY
NEW MEXICO SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS**

The New Mexico School for the Arts (the "School") is a state public charter high school. The School exists for the purpose of providing an excellent artistic and academic education to high school students with exceptional promise in the arts. This Bullying Prevention and Education Policy is adopted to address bullying of students.

1. DEFINITIONS.

1.1"Bullying" means any repeated and pervasive written, verbal, or electronic expression, physical act or gesture, or a pattern thereof, that is intended to cause distress upon one or more students in the School, on School grounds, in school vehicles, at a designated bus stop or at school activities or sanctioned events. Bullying includes, but is not limited to, hazing, harassment, intimidation or menacing acts of a student which may, but need not be based on the student's race, color, sex, ethnicity, national origin, religion, disability, age or sexual orientation.

1.2"Harassment" means knowingly pursuing a pattern of conduct that is intended to annoy, alarm or terrorize another person.

1.3"IDEA" means the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 USC Sections 1401 et seq.

2. PROHIBITION AGAINST BULLYING. Bullying is strictly prohibited by all members of the School community.

3. ANNUAL DISSEMINATION OF POLICY. This Bullying Prevention and Education Policy will be distributed annually to all students, parents, teachers, administrators, and all other School employees in conjunction with the distribution of the student handbook and/or code of conduct.

4. PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING INCIDENTS OF BULLYING. Teachers and staff have a duty to report incidents of Bullying to the Head of School. Students have a duty to report incidents of Bullying to a teacher or to the Head of School. The Head of School and any teacher who receives a report on an incident of Bullying shall protect the confidentiality of those reporting a Bullying incident and shall protect those reporting a Bullying incident from reprisal, retaliation, or false accusation against victims, witnesses or others with information regarding a Bullying incident.

5. CONSEQUENCES FOR BULLYING. Members of the School community who engage in an incident of Bullying are subject to appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with School policy pertaining to disciplinary procedures which may include suspension, expulsion, and/or referral to law enforcement authorities and consideration of compliance with state and federal IDEA requirements. The severity of the Bullying incident shall be taken into consideration when disciplinary decisions are made.

6. **CONSEQUENCES FOR KNOWINGLY MAKING FALSE REPORTS.** Members of the School community who knowingly make a false report of a Bullying incident are subject to appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with School policy which may include suspension, expulsion, and/or referral to law enforcement authorities and consideration of compliance with state and federal IDEA requirements. The severity of the Bullying incident shall be taken into consideration when disciplinary decisions are made.

7. **INVESTIGATION PROCEDURES.** The Head of School will take appropriate action to investigate a Bullying incident report, including reviewing any written, electronic or other physical evidence of the Bullying incident and interviewing the person or persons charged with engaging in the Bullying incident, the person identified as the victim of the Bullying incident, witnesses and/or others with information regarding the Bullying incident.

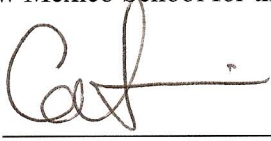
8. **TEACHERS AND STAFF DUTY TO REPORT.** Teachers and staff have an affirmative duty to report Bullying incidents to the Head of School.


9. **HEALTH EDUCATION CURRICULUM.** Anti-Bullying shall be included in the health education curriculum of the Charter School.

This Bullying Prevention and Education Policy was adopted by the Governing Council of the New Mexico School for the Arts, effective as of June 1, 2010 and amends and restates the previously existing Bullying Prevention and Education Policy.

New Mexico School for the Arts

Attest:

By 
 Catherine Oppenheimer, Chair
 of the Governing Council

By 
 Cindy Montoya, Secretary
 of the Governing Council

Legal References: NMAC, Sections 6.12.7.1 et seq., and 6.29.6.10