

A+ Charter Schools: Anti-Bullying Policy

Anti-Bullying, Harassment, and Intimidation Policy

A+ Charter Schools are committed to providing a safe, respectful, and supportive learning environment for all students. Bullying, harassment, intimidation, and cyberbullying are strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated on school grounds, at school-sponsored activities, on school transportation, or through electronic communication that substantially disrupts the educational environment.

Legal Authority

This policy is adopted in accordance with Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) §15-341 and §15-841 and guidance from the Arizona Department of Education regarding bullying prevention. A+ Charter Schools prohibit bullying. This includes, but is not limited to, discrimination, harassment, intimidation and bullying based on the actual or perceived characteristics set forth in Penal Code section 422.55 and Education Code section 220, and disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or any other characteristic contained in the definition of hate crimes, including immigration status. Bullying is defined in Education Code section 48900(r).

Definition of Bullying

Bullying means any intentional written, verbal, electronic, or physical act that a reasonable person would perceive as intended to harm, intimidate, humiliate, or threaten a student and that occurs repeatedly or creates a hostile educational environment. Bullying may include cyberbullying and behavior motivated by a student's actual or perceived characteristics such as race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, religion, disability, or other distinguishing characteristics.

Reporting Bullying

Students, parents, staff, and community members are encouraged to report bullying immediately. Reports may be made verbally or in writing to any teacher, counselor, administrator, or school employee. Anonymous reports may also be accepted. You may make an anonymous and/or confidential complaint by completing the A+ Charter Anti-Bullying Reporting Form on our website www.aplusaz.org. If there is sufficient corroborating information, the school will commence an investigation

Staff Responsibilities

School employees who witness or become aware of bullying must take immediate action when safe to do so and report the incident to the principal or designee.

Investigation Procedures

School administration will promptly investigate reports of bullying. Investigations may include interviews with students, staff, and witnesses, and a review of available evidence. Confidentiality will be maintained to the greatest extent possible.

Consequences

Students who violate this policy may be subject to disciplinary action consistent with the A+ Charter Schools Student Code of Conduct, including counseling, behavioral interventions, parent conferences, suspension, or expulsion depending on severity.

Protection from Retaliation

A+ Charter Schools prohibit retaliation against any person who reports bullying or participates in an investigation.