Saratoga High School Bullying Policy

1. District Board Policy regarding “Harassment” and “Cyber bullying”\(^1\):

“Harassment of students or staff, such as bullying, including cyber bullying, intimidation, hazing or initiation activity, ridicule, extortion, or any other verbal, written, or physical conduct that causes or threatens to cause bodily harm or emotional suffering...”

2. Saratoga High School understands “cyber bullying” to be defined as\(^2\):

“Cyber bullying” includes the transmission of communications, posting of harassing messages, direct threats, social cruelty, or other harmful texts, sounds, or images on the Internet, social networking sites, or other digital technologies using a telephone, computer, or any wireless communication device. Cyber bullying also includes breaking into another person's electronic account and assuming that person's identity in order to damage that person’s reputation or friendships.

3. Saratoga High School understands bullying to be defined as one or more of the following\(^3\):

- Unwanted conduct that takes place over time and that comprises a series of incidents that are severe, pervasive and involve negative actions.
- Behavior that involves an imbalance in power or strength.
- Behavior that includes actions objectively offensive to the average person that are targeted at a member of a protected category.
- Regardless of where it takes place, behavior that typically denies the targeted individual access to the educational program.

4. Consequences for harassment, bullying, or cyber-bullying\(^4\):

Consequences will be applied after an investigation into the conduct/behavior in question and a determination of its impact on the targeted individual and his/her access to the educational program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Violation</th>
<th>First Offense</th>
<th>Second Offense</th>
<th>Third Offense</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harassment/Bullying/Cyber-bullying(^5)</td>
<td>Up to 5 days suspension.</td>
<td>Up to 5 days suspension. Possible recommendation for expulsion.</td>
<td>Recommendation for expulsion.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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\(^1\) Los Gatos-Saratoga Union HSD | BP 5131.3
\(^2\) Los Gatos-Saratoga Union HSD | BP 5131.3
\(^3\) Ron Rubine-Standing on Common Ground. California League of Middle Schools, Sticks and Stones—“Words do Hurt.” 2.25.11.
\(^4\) Saratoga High School Discipline Plan, 2010-2011
\(^5\) California Education Code, Section 48900.4