Sparta Area School District

Article 534 – Cyber Bullying Prohibited

The Sparta Area School District's computer network (including Internet, intranet or extranet), whether accessed on or off campus, shall not be used, at any-time, for the purpose of harassment. All forms of harassment over the network, known commonly as cyber bullying are unacceptable and viewed as a violation of this policy and the District's acceptable use policy/procedures.

Malicious use of the District's computer "systems" (including all software, hardware and network infrastructure) to develop programs, generate communications or institute practices that harass other users or gain unauthorized access to any entity on the system and/or damage the components of any entity on the system is prohibited. Users are responsible for the material and messages they transmit over the system. Hate mail (including instant messages, social site postings, blogs, wikis, tweets and other future Web 2.0 resources) harassment, discriminatory remarks, defamatory messages, or other antisocial behaviors are expressly prohibited.

Cyber bullying includes, but is not limited to the following misuses of technology: harassing, teasing, intimidating, threatening, terrorizing, defaming, or demoralizing another person by sending or posting inappropriate, inaccurate, hurtful and/or hateful e-mail, text message, video message, picture message, digital pictures or images, web site posting, social site posting, Web 2.0 content. It is recognized that the author (poster or sender) of the material is often disguised (logged on/signed-in) as someone else. It is also recognized that the author may use personal devices to generate the previously described content. Use of personal technical resources during school business hours to accomplish the same ends is also considered a violation of the Sparta School District Cyber Bullying Policy.

Students, Staff and Community members who believe they have been the victims of such misuses of district resources, as described in this policy, should not erase the offending material from the system. A copy of the posted content should be printed and brought to the attention of the district administrator, technology director or designee.

The reported incident shall be fully investigated. Any investigation may include contacting law enforcement.

In situations where the incident of cyber bullying originated from non-school systems, but brought to the attention of school officials, discipline shall be based upon whether the conduct is determined to be disruptive to the educational process and whether it interrupts or impedes the day to day operations of the school or the targeted individual.

Legal Reference: 2009 Wisconsin Act 309
Wisconsin Statute 118.46
Cross Reference: Article 419 – Acceptable Use and Internet Safety
Article 529 – Harassment of Students
Article 533 – Bullying
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Revised: