Bullying: What do I need to know?

Review District’s Behavior Guidelines:

★ All behavior guidelines, expectations, and consequences as well are outlined in the “Behavior Guidelines for Secondary Students” and “Behaving Positively at School-Elementary School.” Both documents also include the full text from all Nevada Revised Statutes relative to bullying and cyberbullying.

★ Nevada's bullying laws do **NOT** apply to children in pre-kindergarten or to incidents that occur from one adult to another in a school setting.

Timeline:

★ All school employees must report possible incidents of bullying to the principal on the same day.

★ The school must immediately make sure that all students involved are safe. If the principal or designee does not have access to the reported victim, the principal or designee may wait until the next school day when he or she has access to the student.

★ Parents of students directly involved in the reported incident must be notified that an investigation will be conducted. If the bullying is reported before the end of school hours on a school day, notice must be given before the school’s administrative office closes on that same day. If the bullying is reported on a day that is not a school day, or after school hours on a school day, the notice must be given on the next school day.

★ The principal or designee must start the investigation immediately.

★ The investigation must be completed within two school days (three school days if there was an extenuating circumstance, provided a good faith effort was made).

★ The principal or designee must meet with each reported target of bullying/cyberbullying and reported aggressor, regardless of the outcome of the investigation, no later than 10 school days after receiving the report of the allegation.
What is Bullying?

1. Under NRS 388.122, “bullying” means written, verbal or electronic expressions or physical acts or gestures, or any combination thereof, that are directed at a person or group of persons, or a single severe and willful act or expression that is directed at a person or group of persons, and:

   A. Have the effect of:
      (1) Physically harming a person or damaging the property of a person; or
      (2) Placing a person in reasonable fear of physical harm to the person or damage to the property of the person; or

   B. Interfere with the rights of a person by:
      (1) Creating an intimidating or hostile educational environment for the person; or
      (2) Substantially interfering with the academic performance of a student or the ability of the person to participate in or benefit from services, activities or privileges provided by a school; or

   C. Are acts or conduct described above and are based upon the:
      (1) Actual or perceived age, race, color, national origin, ethnicity, ancestry, religion, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, physical attributes, physical or mental disability of a person, sex, or any other distinguishing characteristic or background of a person; or
      (2) Association of a person with another person having one or more of those actual or perceived characteristics.

2. The term includes, without limitation:

   A. Repeated or pervasive taunting, name-calling, belittling, mocking or use of put-downs or demeaning humor regarding the actual or perceived age, race, color, national origin, ethnicity, ancestry, religion, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, physical attributes, physical or mental disability of a person, sex, or any other distinguishing characteristic or background of a person;

   B. Behavior that is intended to harm another person by damaging or manipulating his or her relationships with others by conduct that includes, without limitation, spreading false rumors;

   C. Repeated or pervasive nonverbal threats or intimidation such as the use of aggressive, menacing, or disrespectful gestures;

   D. Threats of harm to a person, to his or her possessions, or to other persons, whether such threats are transmitted verbally, electronically, or in writing;

   E. Blackmail, extortion, or demands for protection money or involuntary loans or donations;

   F. Blocking access to any property or facility of a school;

   G. Stalking; and

   H. Physically harmful contact with or injury to another person or his or her property.

What is Cyberbullying?

1. Under NRS 388.123, “cyberbullying” means bullying through the use of electronic communication. The term includes the use of electronic communication to transmit or distribute a sexual image of a minor. As used in this section, “sexual image” has the meaning ascribed to it in NRS 200.737, which is any visual depiction, including, without limitation, any photograph or video of a minor simulating or engaging in sexual conduct, or of a minor as the subject of a sexual portrayal.

2. Under NRS 388.124, “electronic communication” means the communication of any written, verbal or pictorial information through the use of an electronic device, including, without limitation, a telephone, a cellular phone, a computer or any similar means of communication.