

# **ROUND TOP-CARMINE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

## **NOTICE OF PARENT AND STUDENT RIGHTS BULLYING, HARRASSMENT, DATING VIOLENCE, AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

The Round Top-Carmine School District (RT-CISD) is committed to providing a positive learning environment for all students that enhances personal safety and promotes respect, dignity, and equality among students. High standards are expected for both academic achievement and for behavior. RT-CISD strives to ensure that all of our students and employees are free from bullying, sexual harassment, dating violence, and sexual violence. All charges of bullying, sexual harassment, dating violence, and sexual violence are to be taken very seriously by students, faculty, staff, administration, and parents/guardians. RT-CISD will make every effort to handle and respond to every charge and complaint filed by students and employees in a fair, thorough, and just manner. Every effort will be made to protect the due process rights of all victims and all alleged perpetrators.

**Bullying** is defined in *Policy FFI (LOCAL)* and *FFI (LEGAL)* as written or oral expression or physical conduct that a school district's Board of Trustees or the Board's designee determines: 1) to have the effect of physically harming a student, damaging a student's property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or of damage to the student's property; or 2) to be sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive to create an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for the student.

**Cyberbullying** is defined as using the internet, interactive and digital technologies, cell phones, and other electronic devices to engage in written or verbal expression or physical conduct that the Board or its designee determines: 1) Will have the effect of physically harming a student, damaging a student's property, or placing a student in responsible fear of harm to the student's person or damage to the student's property; or 2) Is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that the action or threat creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student.

**Teen Dating Violence** is defined as the intentional use of physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse by a person to harm, threaten, intimidate, or control another person in a dating relationship, as defined by *Section 71.0021, Texas Family Code*. Teen dating violence is a pattern of coercive behavior that one partner exerts over the other for the purpose of establishing and maintaining power or control.

**Harassment** is defined as conduct that threatens to cause harm or bodily injury to another student, is sexually intimidating, causes physical damage to the property of another student, subjects another student to physical confinement or restraint maliciously and substantially harms another student's physical or emotional health or safety.

**Sexual Harassment**--(defined in Board *Policy FFH (Legal)* and *FFH (Local)*)—Harassment is defined as conduct that threatens to cause harm or bodily injury to another student, is sexually intimidating, causes physical damage to the property of another student, subjects another student to physical confinement or restraint or maliciously and substantially harms another student's physical or emotional health or safety. This behavior could include touching someone in ways that are not wanted, sexual jokes, pressuring someone to engage in sexual activity, threats or intimidation from a dating partner, or any other form of harassment of a sexual nature that would make a reasonable person uncomfortable. Sexual harassment does not include simple acts of teasing and name-calling among school children.

**Sexual Violence** is defined as sexual assault, sexual abuse, or sexual stalking of a minor child or teenager, including sexual violence committed by perpetrators who are strangers to the victim and by perpetrators who are known or related by blood or marriage to the victim. Behaviors that fall under this definition include but are not limited to incest, molestation, child abuse, stranger rape, and non-stranger rape.

Students who believe they have been harassed, bullied, or otherwise victimized by fellow students or RT-CISD employees are encouraged to promptly report such incidents to the campus principal or other campus professional. To the greatest extent possible, complaints shall be treated as confidential. Limited disclosure may be necessary to complete a thorough investigation. A student or parent/guardian who has a complaint alleging bullying, harassment, dating violence, or sexual violence may request a conference with the principal or the principal's designee. If the student or parent/guardian is not satisfied with the response from campus staff, s/he may request a conference with the Title IX Coordinator.

Complaints will be documented and investigated in accordance with the RT-CISD policies and guidelines. Any staff member who observes an incident that involves physical or verbal threats will report the incident immediately to the campus principal.

Original: Campus Administration

Copy: Student and/or Parent/Guardian

Any staff member who learns of an incident or threat may submit a **Complaint Form** in the main office of any school campus, on behalf of the targeted student.

The *RT-CISD Student Code of Conduct* and *Student Handbook (SCOC)* notifications serve as two means through which parents and students are made aware of the behavioral expectations for students and staff. The *Texas Education Code* also requires that the District's *SCOC* prohibit bullying and harassment, sexual harassment, and dating violence.

**Campus Complaint Procedure:**

- 1) Students//Staff members will complete a **Complaint Form** in the main office of any school campus.
- 2) The **Complaint Form** will be submitted to the principal or designee immediately.
- 3) The principal or designee will investigate complaints by meeting separately with each student involved in the situation.
- 4) The principal or designee will conference with the victim and the parent/guardian to discuss safety and community resources.
- 5) The principal or designee will conference with the alleged perpetrator and parent/guardian to discuss appropriate behaviors and consequences. With the prior consent of the victim, the parent may issue a **School-Based Stay-Away Agreement** to the alleged perpetrator during the parent/guardian conference.
- 6) Documentation of all **Complaint Forms**, follow-up actions and **Stay-Away Agreements** will be retained in the principal's office.

For more information about your rights and responsibilities concerning bullying, harassment or dating violence, please contact the Title IX Coordinator.

_____	_____	_____
Parent/Guardian Name	Parent/Guardian Signature	Date
_____	_____	_____
Student Name	Student Signature	Date
_____	_____	_____
Administrator/Designee Name	Administrator/Designee Signature	Date

Original: Campus Administration  
Copy: Student and/or Parent/Guardian