Aptos High School: Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan

BULLYING AB 537 VIOLATIONS
Bullying is not tolerated at Aptos High School. It is expected that teachers, staff, and students will immediately report any type of bullying for administrative action. AB 537 is the California Student Safety and Violence Prevention Act of 2000 and protects students and school employees against discrimination and harassment at all California Public Schools. AB 537 includes the actual or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity.

The state defines “gender” as “a person’s actual sex or perceived sex and includes a person’s perceived identity, appearance or behavior, whether or not that identity, appearance, or behavior is different from that traditionally associated with a person’s sex at birth.” The nondiscrimination policy also prohibits harassment and discrimination on the basis of sex, ethnic group identification, race, ancestry, national origin, religion, color, or mental or physical disability.

Harassment is defined as “conduct based on protected status that is severe or pervasive, which unreasonably disrupts an individual’s educational or work environment or that creates a hostile educational or work environment.” The protections cover any program or activity in a school, including extracurricular activities and student clubs through the Equal Access Act.

THE THREE (3) TYPES OF BEHAVIORS
● PHYSICAL BULLYING - Harm to another’s body or property
● EMOTIONAL BULLYING - Harm to another’s self worth
● SOCIAL BULLYING - Harm to another’s group acceptance

BULLYING/AB 537 VIOLATIONS MAY INCLUDE:
1. Calling names or making fun of a person.
2. Pinching, pushing, or shoving a person.
3. Taking things away from a person without their consent.
4. Damaging a person’s belongings.
5. Stealing from a person.
6. Spreading rumors about a person (written, verbal and including social media).
7. Saying things about a person, (written, verbal and including social media).
8. Making a person feel uncomfortable or small.
9. Excluding a person from activities.
10. Making a person feel targeted or excluded.

HOW DO YOU FILE A COMPLAINT?
If a student is being bullied or harassed they should begin by telling the person who is harassing them to stop. At this point, the student has the option to wait and see if it happens again or to report the situation.
Students can also begin with or if it happens a second time, by informing a teacher, their school counselor, another adult on campus, or by telling a parent/guardian. If the harassment continues from the same individual, it is very important that the student informs a trusted adult that the attempts to make the behavior stop have failed and that stronger more serious action will be required.

If a student receives threatening communication (including, but not limited to, in person, via text and/or social media) student needs to tell their parent/guardian or a trusted adult immediately. Students should save all communications (including, but not limited to text, voicemail, social media) and share it with an adult. If a student sees someone else at school being bullied, they should find assistance and inform an adult about the concerns.