South High - Inciting Conflict, Intimidation, & Disruption

1. Purpose and Expectations

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all students respect each other and maintain a positive, peaceful, and physically-safe learning environment. Students are expected to contribute to a culture of mutual respect, kindness, and nonviolence. Spreading inflammatory information, making threats, or engaging in repetitive behavior which causes intimidation, conflict, tension, or fear will not be tolerated.

2. Examples of Behavior

The following actions are examples of behavior that are considered to be inciting or organizing a fight; causing, attempting to cause, or promoting others to act in an angry, harmful, or violent manner.

- **Physically Posturing to Fight**
    - Intentionally dropping backpacks, jackets, or personal items to prepare for physical combat, signaling an intent to fight, or escalate others.
    - Engaging in a repeated pattern of physical intimidation or aggressive gestures intended to challenge, provoke, or instill fear in another individual.
- **Verbally Posturing to Fight:**
    - Persistent use of words, tones, targeted comments, or explicit statements intended to instill ongoing fear, provoke physical combat, or bully another student.
    - Refusing to disengage from a verbal or non-verbal standoff, confronting another student in a manner that disrupts the school environment, or remaining in the immediate vicinity of an escalating physical altercation rather than walking away.
- **Inciting a Fight:**
    - Verbally encouraging others to fight, argue, or act aggressively.
    - Recording others in the middle of a physical or verbal conflict
- **Spreading Rumors or Personal Information:**
    - Sharing gossip or personal information of others designed to promote others to act in an angry, harmful, or violent manner
    - Instigating or provoking conflicts online (including social media posts, direct messages, or group chats) that disrupt the school environment.

3. Rationale for the Policy

- **Safety and Physical Well-Being:** A safe school environment requires proactive intervention before physical violence occurs. Repetitive intimidation, dropping gear, and hostile posturing create an immediate risk of harm and disrupt the sense of security every student deserves.
- **Conflict Resolution & Prevention:** Addressing hostile behaviors early—including pattern behaviors like ongoing stare-downs, fight staging, and repeated verbal challenges—prevents escalation into physical altercations.
- **Respect for the School Community:** All students deserve to learn without fear of continuous intimidation, threats, or harassment. Instigating or participating in hostile standoffs undermines the core values of respect, inclusion, and safety

4. Consequences for Violations

The severity of administrative consequences will be determined based on the level of disruption, past history, and potential safety risks created. Repeated instances of intimidation will result in escalated disciplinary measures. Consequences may range from restorative conferences and mediation to detentions, suspensions, or behavioral safety contracts, ensuring a fair approach focused on accountability and safety.