

Virtual Preparatory Academy at Lucerne (VPAL) believes all students have the right to a safe and civil learning environment. Discrimination, sexual harassment, harassment, intimidation, and bullying are all disruptive behaviors which interfere with students' ability to learn, negatively affect student engagement, diminish school safety, and contribute to a hostile school environment. As such, the VPAL prohibits any acts of discrimination, sexual harassment, harassment, intimidation, and bullying altogether. This is inclusive of instances that occur at school-sponsored events and activities, regardless of location, through school-owned technology, and through other electronic means.

Virtual Preparatory Academy at Lucerne defines "discrimination, sexual harassment, harassment, intimidation, and bullying" as the intentional conduct, including verbal, physical, written communication, or cyberbullying, including cyber sexual bullying, based on the actual or perceived characteristics of disability, pregnancy, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, ancestry, race or ethnicity, immigration and citizenship status, religion, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, childbirth or related medical conditions, marital status, age, or association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics or any other basis protected by federal, state, local law, ordinance or regulation. In addition, bullying encompasses any conduct described in the definitions set forth in this Policy. Hereafter, such actions are referred to as "misconduct" prohibited by this Policy."

To the extent possible, Virtual Preparatory Academy at Lucerne will make reasonable efforts to prevent students from being discriminated against, harassed, intimidated and/or bullied, and will take action to investigate, respond, and address and report on such behaviors in a timely manner. VPAL staff who witness acts of misconduct prohibited by this Policy will take immediate steps to intervene when safe to do so.

Moreover, Virtual Preparatory Academy at Lucerne will not condone or tolerate misconduct prohibited by this Policy by any employee, independent contractor, or other person with whom VPAL does business, or any other individual, student, or volunteer. This Policy applies to all employee, student, or volunteer actions and relationships, regardless of position or gender. VPAL will promptly and thoroughly investigate any complaint of such misconduct prohibited by this Policy and take appropriate corrective action, if warranted.