

What is bullying?

Definitions of Bullying, Harassment and Hazing (District Policy from HB 283)

Bullying is when a student or group of students engages in any gesture or written, verbal or physical or computerized or other electronically transmitted act, or threat that:

- 1) Will have the effect of physically harming a student, damaging a student's property or reputation, or placing a student in reasonable 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. This includes four broad categories:*

Physical – harming someone's body in any way, hazing, taking someone's possessions, or damaging someone's possessions in any way.

Emotional – harming someone's self worth by verbal and nonverbal communication. This includes, but is not limited to, teasing, name calling, insulting, intimidating, threatening, making gestures, staring/"mugging", or eye rolling.

Social – Harming another person's group acceptance through gossip, rumors, trying to ruin their reputation, arranging public humiliation, excluding others, getting others to exclude others, or interfering in someone's making or keeping friends in any way.

Electronic /Cyberbullying– Harming someone through the use of text messages, phone calls, blogs, chat rooms, emails, Twitter, Facebook, My Space, photos, or by any other electronic means.

Harassment is bullying by threats of or actual physical violence; the creation by whatever means of a climate of hostility or intimidation; or the use of language, conduct, or symbols in such a manner as to be commonly understood to convey hatred, contempt, or prejudice or have the effect of insulting or stigmatizing an individual. Harassment includes, but is not limited to, bullying on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, or disability or any other basis prohibited by law (such as dating violence and sexual harassment). All matters involving harassment issues will be reviewed for referral to law enforcement officials.

Hazing means any intentional, knowing, or reckless act, occurring on or off campus of an educational institution, by one person alone, or acting with others, directed against a student that endangers, or has the potential to endanger, the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining a membership on a group, a team, or organization. All matters involving hazing which involve breaking the law will be reported to law enforcement officials.

District Policy Regarding Bullying/Harassment/Hazing

Bullying/harassment/hazing is prohibited in any form on school property, in a school vehicle or at a school sponsored activity or event. Students who have bullied/harassed/hazed others are in violation of school policy and may be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension, or expulsion. When necessary, students who violate this prohibition shall be reported to local law enforcement.

District Policy of Investigating Bullying Incidents

Any District employee who receives notice that a student has or may have experienced bullying shall immediately notify the principal or designee. If the report was made orally, the campus principal or designee shall reduce it to written form. The campus principal or designee shall conduct an appropriate investigation based on the allegations in the report.

Student Rights

To be safe

To have my possessions be safe

To be included

To have a chance to be my best

Student Responsibilities in Regard to Bullying/Harassment/Hazing**I will do no harm, or threaten harm to others:**

Physically – by harming someone’s body in any way, taking someone’s possessions, or damaging someone’s possessions in any way.

Emotionally – by harming someone’s self worth by verbal and nonverbal communication. This includes, but is not limited to, teasing, name calling, insulting, intimidating, threatening, making gestures, staring/“mugging”, or eye rolling.

Socially – by harming another person’s group acceptance through gossip, rumors, trying to ruin their reputation, arranging public humiliation, excluding others, getting others to exclude others, or interfering in someone’s making or keeping friends in any way.

Electronically – by harming someone through the use of text messages, phone calls, chat rooms, blogs, emails, Twitter, Facebook, My Space, photos, or any type of electronic means.