Students

Bullying and Harassment Policy

No person, including students and district staff, should be subject to bullying or harassment. Accordingly, aggressive behavior, bullying, hazing, intimidation, and harassment (including but not limited to harassment based on sex, color, race, religion, national origin, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, or other protected group) are prohibited while in school, on school property, on school buses, at designated school bus stops, at school sponsored or school-sanctioned events, or in any communication that bears a reasonable relationship to school, or in any communication that uses school computer, networks or systems.

Bullying is any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act, including written or electronic communication, that may include (but is not limited to) one sided, unfair communication which makes use of physical, social, or other power to hurt, frighten, threaten, or exclude another person or group of people. It is intentional, unwanted, and unprovoked. It may be performed by an individual or a group. It may be directed at a student, students, or staff. Bullying may be limited to a single incident, but is usually characterized by repeated, harmful action on the part of the bully.

Bullying has or can be reasonably predicted to have one or more of the following effects:

- Placing the victim in reasonable fear of harm of the victim's person or property;
- Causing a substantially detrimental effect on the victim's person or property;
- Substantially interfering with the victim's academic performance; or
- Substantially interfering with the victim's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities or privileges provided by a school, including extracurricular activities.

In situations where a victim retaliates against a bully or bullies, the bully or bullies and the victim are subject to disciplinary action for bullying.

Bullying may take various forms, including (but not limited to):

- Stalking
- Physical violence such as punching, shoving, poking, hair-pulling, biting, aggressive tickling
- Physical coercion
- Theft or destruction of property
• Sexual harassment or violence, including such acts as bra-strap snapping, groping, calling another student a “slut”

• Public humiliation

• Teasing, taunting, mimicking, or mocking

• Hazing

• Name-calling and personal insults

• Derogatory slurs

• Gossiping, including online or by passing notes

• Public rejection

• Attempts to humiliate

• Isolation or shunning

• Threats

• Retaliation against a student who reports bullying or other misbehavior

This list is provided to give students examples of types of bullying behavior to help them understand better what bullying is, and is not an exhaustive list of all forms of bullying. Anything that meets the definition in the second paragraph is bullying, regardless of whether it appears in this list or not.

Cyberbullying includes the use of electronic communication, including but not limited to e-mail, instant messages, text messages, voice or video chat, taking or transmitting photos, using blogs, chat rooms, internet forums, social media, the Web, and other forms of electronic media, or any type of device to bully other students. Cyberbullying most commonly includes (but is not limited to) name-calling, spreading malicious rumors, threats, impersonating another person, or posting pictures without consent, with an intent to hurt or humiliate the victim. Students and parents should be aware that students may be subject to school disciplinary action even for internet activities that occur at home and do not use school networks or websites. This is Illinois law.¹

The Board of Education shall ensure that students are provided education on bullying prevention designed to assist in preventing bullying and to minimize the risk of being bullied. Staff shall be provided periodic training in aggressive behavior and bullying prevention. Similar education shall be made available to parents, via programs or written or online material. These

¹This area of the law is constantly changing but as of the date this policy was adopted students can be subject to school disciplinary action for internet activities that occur at home if those activities cause a substantial disruption in the school. See Kowalski v. Berkeley County Schools 652 F 3d 565 (2011).
programs may be provided in partnership with other local organizations with anti-bullying programs.

AP to include:

**Bullying report form, who is responsible for reviewing these forms, where they shall be available to students (physically and online), and how families can get access to these records**

**A clear description of the rights of a student victim of bullying and the steps such a student may take**

**Directions for complying with 105 ILCS 5/10-20.14(d) (identifying students at risk for bully and aggressive behavior, provisions to notify parents.)**

**School calendar handbook and individual school handbooks should include a summary of the bullying policy and procedure and outline where parents can find the full policy information. An anti-bullying webpage providing the policy, administrative procedure, bullying report form, and some bullying prevention material for parents and students should be developed and prominently featured.**

**Legal Reference:** Illinois School Code, 105 ILCS 5/10-20.14, and 5/27-23.7
23 Ill.Admin.Code §§ 1.240 and 1.280
Illinois Children’s Mental Health Act, 405 ILCS 49/1 et. seq

**Cross Reference:** Board Policy 5:230 (Maintaining Student Discipline)  
Board Policy 7:20 (Harassment of Student Prohibited)  
Board Policy 7:190 (Prohibited Student Conduct)  
Board Policy 7:220 (Bus Conduct)  
Board Policy 7:230 (Misconduct by Students with Disabilities)  
Board Policy 7:240 (Conduct Code for Students in Extracurricular Activities)

**Adopted:** July 18, 2005

**Revised:** June 25, 2006  
June 17, 2013