



WHAT STUDENTS NEED TO KNOW ABOUT BULLYING / HARASSMENT

Introduction To Brevard Public Schools

Bully Policy 5517.01

**Offices of Student Services, Risk Management,
District & School Security, and
Human Resources/Labor Relations
2009-2010**

Florida State Statute 1006.147

**Also called The Jeffrey Johnston
“Stand Up for all Students Act”**

Prohibits bullying or harassment to any student, school employee, volunteer, parent and/or school visitor.

Brevard's Bully Policy

Our school is committed to a safe, secure, positive, productive and nurturing educational environment that is free from bullying or harassment of any kind for all of its students, employees, volunteers, parents and/or school visitors.

Definition of Bullying/Harassment

Bullying/Harassment means physically or verbally or emotionally hurting someone on purpose. It is unwanted and repeated, and can be written, verbal, or physical behavior...

“It may involve, but is not limited to:”

- (Unwanted) teasing
- Social exclusion
- Threat
- Intimidation
- Stalking
- Physical violence
- Theft
- Public humiliation

- Sexual, religious, or racial/ethnic harassment
- Damaging or destruction of property
- Placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to his/her person or property
- Cyber-bullying
- Cyber-stalking

Characteristics of Bullying

RIP

Repeated
Imbalance of Power
Purposeful

Cyber-bullying & Cyber-stalking

“Use of electronic communication or technological devices to include...”

- Email messages
- Instant messaging
- Text messaging
- Cellular phone communication
- Internet blogs
- Social websites

- Internet chat rooms
- Internet postings
- Digital pictures / images
- Defamatory websites to engage in acts of bullying and harassment

New addition regarding Cyber-bullying:

“The physical location or time of access of a computer-related incident cannot be raised as a defense in any disciplinary action initiated under this section.”

What does that mean?

This means no matter where or when a computer is used, if a student uses it to bully/harass another student or school adult, if reported, disciplinary sanctions must be taken by a school administrator.

Characteristics of Bullying RIP

Repeated
Imbalance of Power
Purposeful

Expected Behaviors from All

- No tolerance for bullying/harassment;
- All will demonstrate appropriate behavior and treat others with civility and respect.

What can you do if someone tries to bully/harass you?

- Tell the bully to stop;
- Walk away;
- Seek help from a trusted adult;
- If it is repeated then report the bully/bullies.

How Students Report

- Verbal: In-person reporting;
- Written: BPS Bullying/Harassment Reporting form - Elementary or Secondary/Adult;
- Anonymous: Bully Box, Speak Out Hotline (1.800.226.7733), School-based website if applicable.

Incident Reporting and Immunity

- **GOOD FAITH** – Anyone making a report in good faith is immune from cause of action/damages. It will NOT effect employment, grades, learning/working environment or assignments.
- **WRONGFUL & INTENTIONAL** – Consequences and appropriate remedial action will apply.

Characteristics of Bullying

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If you are a Bystander, Recognize Your POWER!

- Express disapproval by not participating in the bullying behavior...
DO NOT laugh along, **DO NOT** tease, **DO NOT** watch, listen, or gossip!!!
- Tell the bully to **STOP!**
- Walk away (encourage the victim to go with you);
- If you see the bullying behavior repeated, **REPORT** the bully / bullies.

Other ways you can help prevent bullying:

- Model speaking and acting in respectful ways to solve problems;
- Discuss bullying behaviors and how hurtful they can be;
- Be clear and consistent against engaging in hurtful teasing and bullying;
- Help others understand the meaning of friendship;
- Urge friends to report bullying.

Actions taken for students who violate the policy...

- Counseling;
- Letters / phone calls to parents of both the bully and the victim;
- Suspension;
- Expulsion;
- Reported to law enforcement.

Again! Expected Behavior...

- Show NO tolerance for bullying/harassment;
- Demonstrate appropriate behavior and treat others with civility and respect.