



# WHAT SECONDARY STUDENTS NEED TO KNOW

## BULLYING / HARASSMENT/ TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AND ABUSE

# Brevard Public School Policy

The Board 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.

# Florida State Statute 1006.147

Information on the Jeffrey Johnston  
“Stand Up for all Students Act”

## **Policy Requirements to uphold the law:**

- Prohibit bullying or harassment by any student, school employee, volunteer, parent and/or school visitor
- Standard definition of bullying/harassment

# What is Normal Conflict?

- Conflict happens every now and then and are accidental or unplanned.
- Behaviors are not attention-seeking or about power and control.

# Definition of Bullying

Bullying means systematically and chronically inflicting physical hurt or psychological distress on one or more students or employees. It is further defined as unwanted and repeated written, verbal, or physical behavior, including any threatening, insulting,...

# Definition of Bullying

...or dehumanizing gesture, by an adult or a student, that is severe or pervasive enough to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment; to cause discomfort or humiliation; or unreasonably interfere with the individual's school performance or participation.

# Bullying may involve, but is not limited to:

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

# What is Bullying?

Harm occurs as the result of an intentional act, rather than the result of a mistake or negligence.

A power imbalance exists between the target and the bully.  
(Real or imagined by the target)

The bully enjoys carrying out the action.

The bully repeats the behavior, often (if given a chance) in a systematic way.

The target is hurt physically or psychologically and has a sense of being persecuted or oppressed.

*-Source Olweus*



# Three Types of Bullying

**Physical Bullying-** Harm to another's person or property

**Emotional Bullying-** Harm to another's self-concept

**Relational Bullying-** Harm to another through damage (or threat of damage) to relationship or to feelings of acceptance, friendship, or group inclusion

# Direct Bullying can be...

- Physical violence such as hitting, kicking, shoving, spitting
- Taunting, teasing, racial slurs
- Sexual, religious, or verbal harassment
- Threatening
- Obscene gestures
- Theft
- Destruction of property
- Stalking

# Indirect Bullying can be...

- Getting another person to bully someone for you
- Intimidation
- Spreading rumors, public humiliation
- Deliberately excluding someone from a group or activity
- Relational aggression (gossip, lies, betrayal, isolation)
- Cyber-bullying
- Cyber-stalking

# Characteristics of Bullying

RIP

**Repeated**

(Note: A severe one time incident may still meet the definition of bullying)

**Imbalance of Power**

**Purposeful**

# What is Harassment?

Any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, use of data or computer software, or written, verbal, or physical conduct directed against a student or school employee that:

# What is Harassment continued...

- Places a student or school employee in reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property
- Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities, or benefits
- Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of a school

# What is Cyber-bullying & Cyber-stalking?

The use of electronic communication or technological devices to bully or harass

# 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.

# How to be Safe on the Internet

- Know who you are talking with.
- Don't give our your passwords to just anybody.
- Think about what you say on the internet.
- Do not post pictures of yourself unless your site is blocked.

# Internet Safety continued....

- Remember, once you put something out on the internet, it is there forever!

# Definition of Teen Dating Violence and Abuse

- A pattern of emotional, verbal, sexual, or physical abuse used by one person in a current or past intimate relationship to exert power and control over another when one or both of the partners is a teenager.
- Abuse may include insults, coercion, social sabotage, sexual harassment, threats and/or acts of physical or sexual abuse.
- The abusive partner uses this pattern of violent and coercive behavior to gain power and maintain control over the dating partner.

# Warning Signs

- Withdrawn
- Secretive/Isolated
- Spending all time with partner
- Unexplained injuries
- Alcohol/Drug Abuse
- Making excuses
- Uncontrolled anger

# Characteristics of a **Healthy** Relationship

- Mutual respect
- Trustworthy, honest, kind
- Independent
- Able to control anger
- Problem-solver
- Self-confident
- Understanding

# Characteristics of an **Unhealthy** Relationship

- Controlling
- Dependent
- Dishonest
- Disrespectful
- Hostile
- Intimidating
- Violent

# How Students Report

- **Verbal:** In-person reporting
- **Written:** BPS Student Incident Reporting Form (1)
- **Anonymous:** Bully Box, Speak Out Hotline (1.800.226.7733), school-based website if applicable

**If an oral report is made, it should be documented on the Student Incident Reporting Form (1) and the Incident Investigation Form (4).**



# About Anonymous Reporting...

Formal disciplinary action may not be based solely on the basis of an anonymous report.

# Incident Reporting and Immunity

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

# If you are a target of bullying, it is okay to:

- Talk to someone: friend, parent, teacher, coach.
- Practice what to say the next time it happens.
- Ask your friends for help.
- Stay calm and confident.
- Walk away.

# If you are a bystander:

- Stand next to the person being bullied.
- Offer friendship to that person.
- Ask the person to walk away with you.
- Get assistance from an adult.

# Actions Taken for Students Who Violate the Policy

- Counseling
- Social Skills Training
- Stay Away Contract
- Safety Plan
- Referral to Certified Behavior Analyst (CBA)
- Suspension
- Expulsion
- Reported to law enforcement

# Actions Taken for Students Who are Targets

- Counseling
- Safety Plan
- Social Skills Training



# How to Be a Good Friend

- Spend time together
- Enjoy activities together
- Respect each others' differences
- Care for each others' safety

# Website Resources

- **[www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov](http://www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov)**
- **[www.loveisrespect.org](http://www.loveisrespect.org)**
- **[www.cdc.gov/chooserespect](http://www.cdc.gov/chooserespect)**