

BULLYING AND HARASSMENT PROHIBITED

Charlotte County Public Schools does not tolerate bullying in any form. Students who participate in bullying will face consequences as outlined in the “Matrix of Infractions and Possible Consequences” found at the end of *The Code of Student*

Conduct. The district expects students to conduct themselves in keeping with their levels of development, maturity, and demonstrated capabilities with proper regard for the rights and welfare of other students and school staff, the educational purpose underlying all school activities, and the care of school facilities and equipment. Conduct that constitutes bullying and/or harassment as defined herein, is prohibited

A. during any education program or activity conducted by the District;

B. during any schoolrelated or schoolsponsored

program or activity or on a school bus of the District; or

C. through the use of data or computer software that is accessed through a computer, computer system, or computer network of the District.

Definitions

“Bullying” is defined as systematically and chronically inflicting physical hurt or psychological distress on one (1) or more students or employees. It is any unwanted

and repeated written, verbal, or physical behavior including any threatening, insulting,

or dehumanizing gesture, by an adult or student, that is severe or pervasive enough to

create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment, cause discomfort

or humiliation, or unreasonably interfere with the individual’s school performance or

participation; and may involve

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A. unwanted teasing or taunting;

B. threats;

C. intimidation;

D. stalking;

E. cyberstalking;

F. cyberbullying;

G. physical violence;

H. theft;

I. sexual, religious, or racial harassment;

J. public humiliation;

K. destruction of property; or

L. social exclusion.

“Harassment” means 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

A. places a student or school employee in reasonable fear of harm to his/her person or damage to his/her property;

B. has the effect of substantially interfering with a student’s educational performance, opportunities, or benefits; or

C. has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of a school.

“Bullying” and/or “Harassment” also encompasses

A. retaliation against a student or school employee by another student or school employee for asserting or alleging an act of bullying or harassment. Reporting an act of bullying or harassment that is not made in good faith is considered retaliation.

B. perpetuation of conduct listed in the definition of bullying and/or harassment by an individual or group with intent to demean, dehumanize, embarrass, or cause emotional or physical harm to a student or school employee by

1. incitement or coercion;

2. accessing or knowingly and willingly causing or providing access to data or computer software through a computer, computer system, or computer network within the scope of the District school system; or

3. acting in a manner that has an effect substantially similar to the effect of bullying and/or harassment.

Reporting

Anyone who believes he/she has been or is the victim of bullying and/or harassment

should immediately report the situation to the school’s administration. The principal or

designee shall report the occurrence of an incident of bullying to the parent/guardian of

all students known to be involved in the incident.

See the *Matrix of Infractions and Possible Consequences*.

Summary

Bullying occurs when a person or group of people hurts, embarrasses, or frightens

another person on purpose over and over again.

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Characteristics of Bullying

- Intentional
- Unprovoked
- Reoccurring
- Difference in power (either physical or psychological)

Types of Bullying

- Physical – pushing, shoving, tripping, hitting, etc.
- Verbal – racist, sexist, or bigoted remarks, teasing, threats, etc.

- Psychological/Relational – intimidation, spreading rumors, exclusion, etc.
- Cyber – electronic bullying through text messaging, instant messaging or through the use of MySpace.com, Facebook.com, Youtube.com or the like.

Bullying is Not

- An altercation between equals
- Good natured playful teasing among equals or peers
- An isolated incident

What To Do

If you are being bullied during the school day, at a school event, at an after school program or on the bus, it is important that you report it to a school administrator who

can take action. Remember, be **SAFE**

Say something to an adult

Ask for help

Find a friend

Exit the area

If bullying occurs after school hours, notify your school SRO or report it to your local

law enforcement officer.

If you witness an act of bullying you should do the following:

- Refuse to join in
- Never fight the bully
- Get others to help you speak out against the bullying
- Distract the bully
- Report all bullying to administration