



# **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.

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## 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.

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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.