

# Parent & Guardian FAQs

Attachment G



## How do we stop the BULLYING?

### What is bullying?

Bullying, harassment, or intimidation means intentional conduct, including verbal, physical, or written conduct or an intentional electronic communication that creates a hostile educational environment by substantially interfering with a student's educational benefits, opportunities, or performance, or with a student's physical or psychological well-being and is:

- motivated by an actual or a perceived personal characteristic including race, national origin, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, ancestry, physical attributes, socioeconomic status, familial status, or physical or mental ability or disability; or,
- threatening or seriously intimidating; and,
- occurs on school property, at a school activity or event, or on a school bus; or,
- substantially disrupts the orderly operation of a school

"Electronic communication" means a communication transmitted by means of an electronic device, including a telephone, cellular phone, computer, or pager.

### What should I do if I think my child is being bullied?

- Stay calm, listen, and let your child know you will work together to stop the bullying – do not ignore it.
- Do not try to contact parents of the children involved – let school staff assist.
- Set up a meeting with your child's teacher or counselor.
- **Complete the school *Bullying, Harassment or Intimidation Reporting Form 230-35*. (Found in counseling and main offices at school, or on the school's website).**
- Speak with the school counselor or pupil personnel worker (PPW) to find out what school resources are available to help support your child.
- Work with school staff to develop a plan of support for your child – include plans for keeping your child safe at school, especially during class breaks, lunch, recess and transportation to and from school. If interested, inquire about a restorative conference to repair relationships and strengthen the community.

### What should my child do if being bullied or witnessed bullying?

- Speak out and report bullying immediately to school staff or a trusted adult.
- **Ask to complete the school *Bullying, Harassment or Intimidation Reporting Form 230-35*.**
- Stay calm and don't get involved in a fight – your child could get hurt or suspended from school.
- Participate in a meeting with parents and school staff to develop a plan of support.

### When should I contact school security or the police?

- If your child is threatened with a weapon.
- If bullying includes criminal acts such as assault, extortion, theft, or vandalism.

### What can I do if my child is bullying others?

- Speak up and tell your child that what he or she is doing is considered bullying.
- Encourage them to respect other children's' rights to be themselves, to choose their friends and to feel safe at school.
- Talk to them about the consequences of being a bully: it hurts their relationships with others, people befriend them out of fear, and they could get suspended from school.
- Set up a meeting with your child's teacher or counselor to develop a plan of support. (Ask them to invite the PPW to the meeting).
- Find out what school resources are available to help; seek community resource to address any possible mental health concerns.
- Monitor your child's behavior.