

**BULLYING / HARASSMENT
TEEN DATING
VIOLENCE AND ABUSE**

**WHAT PARENTS OF
SECONDARY STUDENTS NEED
TO KNOW**

Introduction To Brevard Public Schools

Policy 5517.01

Offices of Student Services, Secondary
Programs, Risk Management, District &
School Security 2011

Brevard's 5517.01 Policy

Our 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.

Definition of Bullying

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

Definition of Harassment

- (Insulting Behaviors) Any threatening, insulting or dehumanizing gesture, use of data or computer software, written, verbal, or physical contact.
- Has the effect of interfering with the students education and the orderly operation of the school.

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/Harassment
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?

No matter where or what computer is used, if your child uses it to bully/harass a student and/or school based adult, if reported, disciplinary sanctions must be taken by the school administrator.

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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**

Expected Behaviors

- No tolerance for bullying/harassment
- Help create a positive school climate
- Demonstrate appropriate behavior and treat others with civility and respect.

What To Tell Your Teen To Do If He/She is Being Bullied/Harassed or Abused:

- Tell the offender to stop
- Walk away
- Seek help from a trusted adult
- Report

Find Out the Circumstances of the Incident and What Exactly Transpired.

Suggested questions to ask your teen:

- Who was present?
- What were the circumstances?
- Where did it happen?
- When did it happen?

Talk To Your Child About Being with Friends and Knowing Which Friends They Can Count On

Encourage your child to develop positive relationships and not hang out with kids who make them feel badly about themselves.

How Students Report

- **Verbal:** In-person reporting;
- **Written:** BPS Bullying/Harassment/Teen Dating Violence and Abuse Reporting Form - 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.

Teach Your Teen the POWER of Bystanders!

Bystanders Should:

- Express disapproval by not participating. DO NOT laugh along, DO NOT tease, DO NOT watch, listen, or gossip!!!
- Tell the offender to STOP!
- Walk away (encourage the victim to go with you)
- If you see these behaviors repeated, REPORT the offenders.

How Can Parents Help End Offensive Behaviors

Supportive

Listen

Observant

Say it

Claim it

Stop it

Actions Taken for Students Who Violate the Policy

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

Consequences for Parents, Visitors/Volunteers Who Violate This Policy

- Determined by the School Administrator
- Trespassed
- If applicable, report to appropriate law enforcement agency.

Ways Parents of Secondary Students Can Help

- Remain proactive and reinforce respectful behavior
- Let them know that bullying/harassment and teen dating violence and abuse is disrespectful, unacceptable, and can be dangerous
- Tell them hazing is illegal, humiliating, and can be life threatening
- Tell them sexual harassment is illegal

More Information to Tell Your Teen

- Misbehavior on the basis of race, ethnicity, religion, disability or sexual orientation is a form of bias or hate and can not be dismissed as teasing.
- Hate-motivated behavior often leads to hate crimes and are punishable by law.

Parents Should Also...

- Know the school rules, expected behaviors and consequences of bullying/harassment/teen dating violence and abuse
- Participate at school, offer services and attend school-sponsored activities
- Communicate regularly with teachers
- Report bullying/harassment/teen dating violence and abuse behavior immediately
- Ask for and accept the school's help whether your youth is a target, an offender or a bystander

Brevard's Bullying Policy

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Again! Expected Behavior in our Schools...

- Show NO tolerance for bullying/harassment/teen dating violence and abuse
- Help create a positive school climate
- Demonstrate appropriate behavior and treat others with civility and respect.