

Bullying, Harassment & Cyber-bullying Definitions

Bullying

Bullying is defined as unwanted, aggressive, repeated behaviors that involve a real or perceived power imbalance. The imbalance of power involves the use of physical strength, access to embarrassing information, or popularity to control or harm others.

Harassment

Harassment is any unwelcome conduct based on a protected class under the federal civil rights laws that is severe, pervasive or persistent and creates a hostile environment that interferes with or limits a student's ability to participate in or benefit from services, activities, or opportunities offered by a school. Harassment meets one or more of the following criteria:

- Is an act directed at one or more students that is received as harmful or embarrassing
- Substantially interferes with educational opportunities, benefits, or programs of one or more students
- Substantially affects the ability of a student to participate in or benefit from the school district's educational programs or activities by placing the student in reasonable fear of physical harm or by causing emotional distress
- Is based on a student's actual or perceived distinguishing characteristics, or is based on an association with another person who has or is perceived to have any distinguishing characteristics
- Is repeated over time – is severe, persistent, and pervasive
- Causes mental duress or psychological trauma to the victim.

Cyber-bullying

Cyber-bullying is bullying that takes place using electronic technology. Electronic technology includes devices and equipment such as cell phones, computers, and tablets, as well as communication tools including social media sites, text messages, chat and websites. Examples may include mean text messages or emails, rumor sent by email or posted on social network sites, and embarrassing pictures, videos, websites, or fake profiles.