

Overview of Bullying:

The Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities Act of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 was enacted to provide federal support to promote school safety. When instated, however, the act omitted any reference to bullying. Therefore, H. R. 284 was created to address the issue of bullying.

Definition of Bullying:

Bullying is defined by H.R. 284 as *conduct that is based on a student’s actual or perceived identity with regard to race, color, national origin, gender, disability, sexual orientation, religion, or any other distinguishing characteristics that may be defined by a State or local educational agency, that is directed at one or more students; substantially interferes with educational opportunities or educational programs of such students; and adversely affects the ability of a student to participate in or benefit from the school’s educational programs or activities by placing a student in reasonable fear of physical harm. A student is being bullied, according to Safe and Responsive Schools when exposed, repeatedly over time, to intentional injury or discomfort inflicted by one or more other students. Bullying behavior may include physical contact, verbal assault, making obscene gestures or facial expressions, and being intentionally excluded. Bullying implies an imbalance in power or strength in which one child is victimized by others. Safe and Responsive Schools emphasizes that bullying is a serious threat that may have detrimental psychological effects on children such as low self-esteem, depression, and suicide.*

District-wide Behavioral Expectations	Examples of Expected Behaviors	Level 3 Infractions	Possible Corrective Strategies: Multiple strategies may be used depending on individual student’s needs. This is not meant to be an exhaustive list.
BE SAFE	<i>Schools</i> must send a clear message of zero tolerance for bullying by establishing a safe school environment that fosters social bonding and academic achievement, promotes the norms of non-violence, teaches problem solving, conflict resolution, and anger management skills, and eliminates the possession	3.0 Bullying ◇ Bullying Behavior ○ Physical contact ○ Verbal or written assault ○ Obscene gestures/facial expressions ○ Intentionally excluding another student	<u>For infractions involving possession, use or concealment of illegal drugs and firearms and bullying*, the following steps must be implemented:</u> 1. MANDATORY student conference and school-level investigation. If the principal determines that a recommendation for expulsion is warranted: 2. MANDATORY parental contact

	<p>of illegal substances and firearms.</p> <p>Students must be able to confide in adults both in school and in the community if they are the victim of bullying.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Damaging another student's belongings ○ Forcing another student to do something he/she does not want to do 	<p>3. MANDATORY school level conference</p> <p>4. MANDATORY referral to the <i>Response to Intervention Team</i> to complete <i>FBA</i></p> <p>5. MANDATORY referral to school social worker</p> <p>6. MANDATORY recommendation for expulsion and interim placement</p>
BE RESPONSIBLE	<p>Schools must establish a policy that reinforces the school's position regarding bullying.</p> <p>Students will not initiate or participate in any bullying behavior.</p>		<p>*If a student is suspected of initiating or participating in bullying behavior, schools are expected to adhere to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◇ Encourage the students involved to discuss the issue of bullying and more appropriate means of addressing their differences ◇ Establish a "buddy" system whereby students assist each other in using positive strategies to deter bullying. ◇ Establish behavior contracts for bullies ◇ Conduct a conference between the victim and the bully to discuss their differences; an action plan should be developed during the conference to resolve the student's issues ◇ Invite the parents and guardians of the students involved to partner with the school in its effort to change the school culture ◇ Encourage school staff to teach the parents and guardians of the students involved to support and reinforce the expectations of schools within the family and throughout the community by conducting workshops that emphasize the school's position regarding bullying
BE RESPECTFUL	<p>Schools must ensure that students respect one another despite differences and treat each other with dignity at all times.</p> <p>Students will promote positive behaviors (i.e., encourage and congratulate each other for their achievements, etc.) among their peers both during school and while participating in school related activities.</p>		