

## Joliet Township High School – District 204

Dear Parents/Guardians:

At our school, bullying of any kind, by any person, is unacceptable. All students should be free from worries about being bullied. Students who bully others must be taught other, appropriate ways of interacting with peers. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with information concerning the School District's antibullying program and to encourage you to help us identify students who are being bullied.

The School Board policy on bullying begins with this goal statement:

Bullying, intimidation, and harassment diminish a student's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate. Preventing students from engaging in these disruptive behaviors is an important District goal.

Bullying is defined as follows:

Bullying means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or electronically, directed toward a student that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

1. Placing the student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or property.
2. Causing a substantially detrimental effect on the student's physical or mental health.
3. Substantially interfering with the student's academic performance.
4. Substantially interfering with the student's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

Bullying, intimidation, and/or harassment may take various forms, including without limitation: threats, stalking, physical violence, sexual harassment, theft, public humiliation, destruction of property, or retaliation for asserting or alleging an act of bullying.

Staff members will respond immediately and with compassion to a student who reports bullying or school violence. After evaluating the situation to determine if an immediate referral to is needed, a staff member will give the student the form for reporting bullying, 7:180-AP1, E5, Report Form for Bullying and School Violence. This form is also available at [www.jths.org](http://www.jths.org) and can be submitted anonymously or in person at Central in room 280-0, at West in room B-129, in the Main Office of the Alternate School and Transition Center. A staff member will inform you whenever your child is involved in a bullying report.

The mission of Joliet Township High School, a diverse and unified learning community of choice, is to empower every student to acquire and apply the attributes to compete and contribute positively to our community and global society by providing a rigorous, relevant, and innovative education in a safe, supportive, academy environment through a quality, caring, and dedicated staff working in partnership with family and community.

Joliet Township High School ensures equal educational opportunities are offered to students, regardless of race, color, national origin, age, gender, religion, disability, veteran's status, or marital status.