

# TBMS Bullying Policy

## What is Bullying?

A person is being bullied when he or she is exposed, repeatedly and over time, to negative actions on the part of one or more other persons. Forms of bullying can include, but are not limited to, physical, verbal, and cyber bullying. Bullying is differentiated from other aggressive acts in the following ways:

- The student who bullies intends to harm.
- There is more than one incident.
- The imbalance of power makes it difficult for the child who is being bullied to defend him/herself.
  - The imbalance of power can be physical. The student who bullies can be older, bigger, stronger, or several children can gang up on a single child.
  - The imbalance of power can be psychological, which is harder to see but just as potent. The student who bullies can have more social status or a sharper tongue, for instance.

## Physical Bullying:

Physical bullying is generally considered to be the repeated use of force towards a person's body or personal belongings. Examples include, but are not limited to, hitting, punching, shoving, kicking, tripping, spitting, elbowing, shoulder checking, pinching, flicking, throwing objects, hair pulling, restraining, inappropriate touching, damaging physical property, etc.

## Verbal Bullying:

Verbal bullying is generally considered to be the repeated use of negative and/or damaging words (including both spoken and written) towards, or in regard to, another person. Examples include, but are not limited to, negative comments, name calling, lies, spreading rumors, manipulating social relationships, extorting, intimidating, racial slurs, malicious teasing, cussing, threats, sexual orientation attacks, etc.

## Cyber Bullying:

Cyber bullying is generally considered to be the use of social media, electronic mail, or electronic devices in a negative manner towards, or in regard to, another person. Examples include, but are not limited to, posting negative comments, fake profiles, sexting, making fun of photos, tagging photos, twitter fights, posting negative videos, texting photos, negative status post, hate blog, hate pledges, texting rumors, hacking profiles, nasty emails, etc.

## Report of Bullying:

The Western Placer Unified School District, in agreement with the California Department of Education, expects students and/or staff to immediately report incidents of bullying to the principal or designee. Any staff member who witnesses such acts will take immediate steps to intervene when safe to do so. Each complaint of bullying shall be promptly investigated in a thorough and confidential manner. This policy applies to students on school grounds, while traveling to and from school or a school-sponsored activity, during the lunch period, whether on or off campus, and during a school-sponsored activity.

## Discipline:

Corrective actions for a student who commits an act of bullying of any type may include counseling, behavioral intervention and education, and, if the behavior is severe or pervasive as defined in Education code 48900, may include suspension or expulsion in accordance with district policies and regulations.