

# FERNDALE SCHOOL DISTRICT ~ Bullying Prevention Resource

The Ferndale School District takes bullying very seriously and has a zero-tolerance policy. In order to protect our students from bullying, it is important that we partner with families to properly identify bullying and work together to come up with solutions that stop the bullying behavior and support all students involved.

[Board Policy 3207](#)

## **What is bullying?**

Bullying is defined as negative actions which are intentional, repeated, and have a power imbalance.

## **Types of bullying**

Bullying is any intentional electronic, written, verbal, or physical action which results in one or more of the following:

- Physically or emotionally harms a student or damages the student's property
- Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education
- Is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment
- Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school

## **What do we do at school to prevent bullying?**

- Yearly training for all staff on how to respond to reports of bullying.
- Specifically designed anti-bullying lessons taught by the school counselor to all classes.
- Reinforcing positive behaviors through school-wide positive behavior support initiatives.
- Teach and re-teach social skills, with an emphasis on areas of problem solving and empathy.
- Foster an environment of belonging.

## **What do we do if a student reports bullying?**

All suspected bullying incidents are reported to the principal, dean, and/or school counselor, who then will do an investigation. If the incident is confirmed to be a case of bullying, a Bullying Incident Form will be used to document and guide how we move forward (see back of this page). *It is important to note that not all incidents will result in a confirmed case of bullying. However, even if an incident is not confirmed to be bullying, it may still result in consequences and/or interventions for those involved.*

## **What can I do at home to help?**

Families play a vital role in helping to identify and eliminate bullying. Here are some things you can do:

- Talk to your student about trusted adults at school who they can go to when/if they need help.
- Stay in contact with the school and with teachers – we are here to help and want to have a relationship with our families.
- Discuss ways that your student can show kindness, empathy, and compassion to others.
- Connect with your student about their day and identify successes and challenges together.
- Talk to your student about their social media accounts and usage.

If you would like more information or suspect bullying is happening, contact your student's school, or visit [ferndale-wa.safeschoolsalert.com/](http://ferndale-wa.safeschoolsalert.com/) for options to report anonymously. For additional information regarding bullying, you may also visit the [OSPI website](#).

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**TOGETHER, students, staff, parents, and the Ferndale community are responsible for making our schools a safe, respectful, and nurturing learning environment for ALL students.**

**Thank you for teaming up with us in these efforts and for making our schools a welcoming place where we all belong!**

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## FSD Bullying Incident Reporting Form

Reporting person: \_\_\_\_\_

Targeted student/victim: \_\_\_\_\_

Today's date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of school adult you've already contacted (if any): \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) of people involved (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

On what dates did the incident(s) happen (if known):  
\_\_\_\_\_

Where did the incident happen? Circle all that apply.

- |                 |                                              |                     |                     |
|-----------------|----------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Classroom       | Hallway                                      | Restroom            | Lunch Recess        |
| Cafeteria       | School bus                                   | Internet/Cell phone | Off school property |
| School Activity | Specialist class (PE, Music, other Elective) |                     |                     |

Other (Please describe.) \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the box that best describes what the bully did. Please choose all that apply.

- Hitting, kicking, shoving, spitting, hair pulling or throwing something at the student
- Getting another person to hit or harm the student
- Teasing, name-calling or threatening in person, by phone, by e-mail, etc.
- Putting the student down and making the student a target of jokes
- Making rude and/or threatening gestures
- Excluding or rejecting the student
- Making the student fearful, demanding money or a specific action
- Spreading harmful rumors or gossip
- Cyber bullying (bullying by calling, texting, emailing, web posting, etc.)
- Other

If you select other, please describe:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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Why do you think harassment, intimidation or bullying occurred?

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Were there any witnesses? Yes  No  If yes, please provide their names:

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Did a physical injury result from this incident? If so, please describe:

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Was the target/victim absent from school as a result of the incident?  Yes  No If yes, please describe:

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Is there any additional information?

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**Thank you for reporting!**

**Please turn this completed form into the office as soon as possible. The incident will be investigated by your school principal, assistant principal, school dean, or school counselor and action steps will be determined in order to make sure you are safe and comfortable here at school.**