

Chelwood Bully Prevention Plan

DEFINITION: “Bullying’ is a way of using power aggressively in which a person is subjected to intentional, unwanted and unprovoked hurtful verbal and/or physical actions. To qualify as bullying, incident must involve an imbalance of power between the target and the student who acts aggressively. Bullying usually involves multiple incidences, bully and the target have drastically different reactions to the incident, and target feels powerless to self-advocate. An act of bullying results in the targeted student feeling oppressed, fearful, distressed, injured, or uncomfortable. The aggression is repeated on more than one occasion and can include: physical, verbal, emotional, racial, sexual, written, electronic, damage to property, social exclusion, and intimidation. Bullying may be motivated by actual or perceived characteristics such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation or identity, mental, physical or academic disability. Bullying often takes place in a social context.

Cyberbullying is a form of bullying. Cyberbullying is any form of electronic communication (through social media, online games, apps, or other formats) which targets a specific student or group with the intent to harm; is published with the intention that the information be seen or shared with the target student or group; and creates a hostile environment within the school which substantially interferes with the targeted student or group’s educational benefits, opportunities, or performance.

Students who encourage or promote bullying or cyberbullying may also be subject to disciplinary action.

PROCEDURE FOR REPORTING AN INCIDENT OF BULLYING BEHAVIOR

- Students may bring the incident to the attention of a teacher, counselor, principal, or any school personnel when it occurs.
- Students, witnesses, or school personnel will fill out a Bully Report Form and turn it in to the front office or School Counselor.
- The School Counselor will investigate the incident(s) and follow up with discipline referral form if warranted.
- Parents are encouraged to report any incidents of bullying to the School Counselor via phone (x25114) or email at amy.love@aps.edu. Bully Report Forms are available in the office and on the school website.

SCHOOL POLICY ON REPORTING INCIDENTS OF BULLYING

- Anyone who sees or hears of a bullying incident must report it through the referral system.
- All reports should be submitted to the School Counselor within one day of the incident or report of incident.
- If there is an immediate safety concern, the staff member will contact the office to escort the student who is acting aggressively to the front office to ensure safety of all students.

SCHOOL POLICY ON PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO INCIDENTS OF BULLYING

- Classroom guidance curriculum regarding the expected behaviors of the school or classroom, possible consequences for inappropriate behavior, and the school procedure to report incidents of bullying will be provided.
- Teachers and other school staff who witness or receive reports of acts of bullying will appropriately intervene, complete Bully Report Form, and have involved students complete Bully Report Forms(s).
- An investigation will take place where all parties involved (target, bystanders and student(s) who is acting aggressively) are interviewed separately, insuring the confidentiality of reporters, bystanders, targets, and students who are acting aggressively. Findings of the investigation will be documented.
- Teachers and other staff who are involved with the students will be notified to help monitor and prevent further bullying situations (because many times bullying is subtle, cumulative and retaliatory).
- If it is deemed a bullying situation, parents of all students involved will be notified of the incident and of outcomes which pertain to their child. Confidentiality will be maintained regarding all students involved.
- APS district policy and Student Behavior Handbook will be followed to determine consequences for students who act aggressively and bystanders when appropriate.
- Administrators and counselor will be available to talk with target and parents about what would help them feel safer at school. Support services are available for both target and the student who is acting aggressively through School Counselor and Health and Wellness Team.