

CPS Policy JFCF >>>

In order to promote a safe learning environment for all students, the Columbia Public School District prohibits all forms of bullying, hazing and student intimidation on school property, at any school function, or on any school bus.

(See entire policy by clicking [here](#)).



Frequently Asked Questions About Bullying

5/06/2021

bullying >>>

Bullying is not new and the goal to have schools be a safe place for all students is not new. Working with students and families when misconduct occurs has been and remains important. In 2016 Missouri updated [statute RSMo 160.775](#), which requires school districts to have anti-bullying policies and a very specific investigation procedure in place.

To comply with the law, CPS revised its existing [Board Policy JFCF](#) to include a broader definition of “bullying,” “cyberbullying,” and “hazing.” Additionally, the law and CPS require employees to report any instance of bullying to the principal. Although CPS has always worked to investigate bullying, the process and reporting was standardized across the district.



What Should I Tell My Child About Bullying?

Schools should be a safe place for everyone. Your principal, teachers and other adults at school want you to feel safe all the time. When you see bullying or feel bullied, you should know what to say, what to do and who to tell.

What to say? Stop it. I don't like this, and this isn't right.

What to do? Get out of the situation as quickly as you can and go to the closest available adult.

Who to tell? You can tell the principal, a counselor, or any adult in the school you know with whom you feel comfortable reporting an uncomfortable or unsafe situation.

What Can I Do if Someone is Bullying My Child?

You should contact the building principal to discuss the specifics of the situation. You may want to do this with your student as appropriate for the age of your child and the situation. You may also complete a report of bullying through the online [Bullying Report Form](#), which is available on the Columbia Public Schools website, or contact the building principal. During these conversations, ask what is or will be done to ensure your student is safe and supported and how you may assist at home.

What Happens if My Child is Accused of Bullying?



The school will do an investigation by working with a variety of individuals in order to have input from multiple perspectives to help reach a determination as to whether an instance of bullying occurred and whether further information is necessary.

Bullying reports are and remain internal to CPS only and unless there is a law violation that merits a report to law enforcement. As with any situation of potential misconduct, informing parents is important. Although the investigation should move ahead without interference, being partners with families to facilitate positive and productive results from any review is essential. In some cases, the student alleged to be bullying is unaware of the situation and sometimes a report of bullying is not true. Administrators use professional judgement about if and when to contact parents.

resources >>>



U Matter is the district's positive and healthy choices campaign to promote substance abuse prevention, bullying prevention and students making safe decisions.

If you find information on this site that could help someone you know, please share. We aspire to help you in any way we can. Because you matter.

Website: <http://umatter.us/>



This official website of the United States government provides information on how to identify bullying and stand up to it safely.

Website: <https://www.stopbullying.gov/>

What is the District doing to Ensure that all Students are Fairly Treated?

Columbia Public Schools has and will continue to work for fair treatment for all students. CPS staff participate in Equity Training so that those involved in education will better understand the role of difference in interactions between students, families, and the system, around not just race but also class, gender sexual orientation, religion, and other identity areas. The school district uses Restorative Practices to teach students to build and when possible repair relationships. These efforts are reflected in the out-of-school suspension (OSS) numbers.

Columbia Public Schools has a Memorandum of Understanding with local law enforcement agreeing that minor school based criminal offences can be handled internally with school consequences opposed to criminal charges or referrals to the Juvenile Court system.

In addition, CPS is also focused on education and prevention. CPS has anti-bullying lessons on how to be a respectful student and friend in its curriculum. There are lessons for all students as well as individual and group interventions for students as needed. Resources are also available through the district's U Matter program at www.umatter.us.

School leaders investigate reports of bullying. Their reports are sent to the school district's central office for review. CPS continues to work with students and families to educate and support situations. Families may find reassurance that the district continues its efforts to support, educate, and positively serve students.