

## Definitions

The following definitions will apply for purposes of this regulation:

- “Bullying” means systematically and chronically inflicting physical hurt or psychological distress on one or more students. Bullying of a student may include hazing, threats, taunting, teasing, confinement, assault, demands for money, extortion, destruction of property, theft of valued possessions, ridicule, name-calling, rumor spreading, slurs, jokes, innuendos, demeaning comments, and ostracism of the person or another.

It is further defined as any unwanted purposeful gesture or written, verbal, graphic, or physical act (including electronically transmitted acts—i.e., Internet, cell phone, personal digital assistant (PDA), or wireless hand-held device) that is reasonably perceived as being motivated either by any actual or perceived characteristic, such as race; ethnicity; color; religion; ancestry; national origin; gender; sex; sexual orientation; gender identity and expression; marital status; socioeconomic background, social/family background, linguistic preference, political beliefs, mental, physical, or sensory disability, difference, or impairment; or by any other distinguishing characteristic or because of one’s association with a particular person or group of persons.

Bullying also includes, but is not limited to, any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture by a student that has the potential to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment or cause long-term damage, discomfort, or humiliation, or unreasonably interfere with the individual’s school performance or participation, or is carried out repeatedly and is often characterized by an imbalance of power.

- “Cyberbullying” is defined as willful harassment and intimidation of a person through the use of digital technologies, including, but not limited to, e-mail, blogs, texting on cell phones, social websites (e.g., MySpace, Facebook, Twitter, and the like), chat rooms, “sexting,” instant messaging, or video voyeurism by accessing or knowingly and willingly causing or providing access to data or computer software through a computer, computer system, or computer network within the scope of the District network system.
- “Cyberstalking” means to engage in a course of conduct to communicate, or to cause to be communicated, words, images, or language by or through the use of electronic mail or electronic communication, directed at or about a specific per-

son, causing substantial emotional distress to that person and serving no legitimate purpose.

- “Prohibited harassment” includes, but is not limited to, oral, written, psychological, physical (both climate and contact), and other demonstrative actions with regard to race, creed, ethnic origin, religious preference, gender, disability, or sexual orientation that is harassing. [See FFH(LOCAL)]
- “Accused” is defined as any District student in the school or outside the school, at school-sponsored events, on school buses, or at training facilities or training programs sponsored by the District who is reported to have committed an act of bullying, whether formally or informally, verbally, or in writing.
- “Complainant” is defined as any individual who has a complaint or concern.
- “Victim” is defined as any District student who is reported to have been the target of an act of bullying during any educational program or activity.

### Examples

Bullying may involve, but is not limited to:

- **Verbal:** Hurtful name-calling, teasing, gossiping, making threats, making rude noises, or spreading hurtful rumors.
- **Nonverbal:** Posturing, making gang signs, leering, staring, stalking, destroying property, using graffiti or graphic images, or exhibiting inappropriate and/or threatening gestures or actions.
- **Physical:** Hitting, punching, pushing, shoving, poking, kicking, tripping, strangling, hair pulling, fighting, beating, biting, spitting, or destroying property.
- **Emotional (psychological):** Rejecting, terrorizing, extorting, defaming, intimidating, humiliating, blackmailing, manipulating friendships, isolating, ostracizing, using peer pressure, or rating or ranking personal characteristics.

Bullying occurs when a student or a group of students engages in written or verbal expression or physical conduct that:

- Will have the effect of physically harming a student, damaging a student’s property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to the student’s person or of damage to the student’s property;

- Is so sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that the action or threat creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student; or
- Has the effect of substantially negatively impacting a student's emotional or mental well-being.

**Adoption or Last  
Amended Date**

This regulation was last adopted or amended on May 24, 2018.