




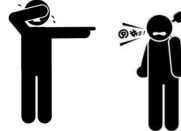

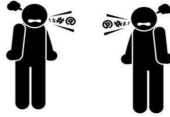
Parent/Guardian Handout Conflict, Bullying, or Harassment

This informational handout is to provide information and resources to help parents understand and support a child who feels physically or emotionally unsafe at school because of interpersonal conflict, harassment, or violence.

The Basics

- Bozeman Public Schools is dedicated to providing every student an educational environment where they feel safe and supported.
- Any type of physical, verbal, or interpersonal aggression— whether or not the behavior constitutes “bullying” behavior— can have an impact on the wellbeing of the individuals involved and detract from the felt safety of the educational environment for all students.
- If your child is being physically or emotionally hurt or made to feel unsafe at school... **There are supports available.**
- OR if your child is engaging in harmful or aggressive behaviors toward others at school...

Parent’s Guide to Understanding Different Types of “Unkind” Social Behaviors

Bullying vs. Conflict vs. Teasing vs. Mean			
Bullying	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intentional Repeated Unwanted Aggressive Behavior Real or perceived power imbalance 	Mean	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intentionally hurtful May be a strong reaction to an emotion or situation Usually no power imbalance
	<p>Someone(s) are having fun. Someone is hurt.</p> <p>Student who the target of the behavior may feel unsafe and fearful of retribution: needs adult assistance to help with physical or emotional protection and/or separation. Student who engaged in the behavior may lack skills or feel embarrassed, angry, defensive, or unsafe: needs adult assistance to prevent them from doing further harm.</p>		<p>Someone is having fun OR No one is having fun. Someone is hurt</p> <p>Student who said or did something mean may not know that it was hurtful or they may regret what they did: needs adult assistance to say sorry, repair relationships, or to practice coping tools. Student who was the target of the mean behavior may feel hurt and angry: needs support understanding and processing the hurtful actions/comments.</p>
Teasing	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> May be unkind, insulting, or offensive Often between friends and not intended to be hurtful Everyone is participating equally Usually stops if one participant conveys discomfort 	Conflict	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Equal balance of power Usually involves a disagreement Can escalate into aggressive verbal/physical behaviors A solution can usually be found
	<p>Someone(s) are having fun. No one is hurt.</p> <p>Students involved may need help understanding boundaries between teasing, being mean, and or harassing. - Students may need an adult assistance to resolve the situation when the students disagree on boundaries and things “go too far” for someone(s, or everyone) involved.</p>		<p>No one is having fun. No one is hurt OR Both are hurt.</p> <p>Students may be distressed about the conflict and/or worried about their relationships with one another. - Students may need adult assistance finding an equitable solution and/or communicating with one another in order to resolve the situation peacefully.</p>

Strategies for Parents

- Engage in open and non-judgmental communication with your child.
- Be aware of signs of emotional distress like behavior changes or mood swings.
- Model respectful and empathetic behavior.
- Set clear expectations and consequences for bullying.
- Monitor your child’s online activity.
- Build their resilience and self-esteem.
- Seek professional help (like counseling) if your child has difficulty managing their frustrations or if they’ve been the victim of mistreatment.
- Immediately inform the school of situations impacting your child at school.
- Teach conflict resolution and assertive communication.
- Promote positive friendships and social interactions.
- Stay informed about your child’s school and social life.
- Encourage reporting of bullying incidents.**

What to Expect from Your Child’s School If You Report?

- Your child’s school will initiate a **unbiased, confidential investigation** that will include information from parent(s)/guardian(s), involved students, and bystanders.
- Parent(s)/guardian(s) of students directly involved will be informed of the investigation and given the opportunity to share more details or concerns.
- Any documents created as part of the investigation, will available by parent request and be kept in a confidential folder separate from the student’s cumulative file.
- If any of the details of the investigation suggest that alleged behavior could constitute discrimination on the basis of a protected class, parent(s)/guardian(s) and student(s) will be directed to the appropriate administrative designee to discuss options under Title IX, IDEA, other relevant state or federal legislation.
- Disciplinary measures may be administered by school principal according to district policy. ****Due to FERPA restrictions, school administration is not able to disclose any information related to disciplinary measures taken against any student to anyone but that student’s own legal parent/guardian.**
- Following the investigation, if student(s) experience continued concern about their future safety or if the school is not able to ensure safety on the part of the alleged offender,
 - Parent(s)/guardian(s) of students directly involved will be included in the development of a Safety Plan for their child.

Report any behaviors that may be impacting the physical or emotional safety of students to your child’s school or by submitting an Incident Reporting Form - <https://www.bsd7.org/students-parents/school-safety>



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BSD7 Safe Student Protocol

