



Jefferson School District Bullying Prevention

What is bullying?

Bullying is intentional harmful behavior initiated by one or more students and directed toward another student. Bullying exists when a student with more social and/or physical power deliberately dominates and harasses another who has less power. Bullying is unjustified and often is repeated over time. Bullying differs from conflict. Two or more students can have a disagreement or conflict. Bullying involves a power imbalance element where a bully targets a student who has difficulty defending himself or herself.

Bullying may take many forms and can include:

- picking on others
- making hurtful and racist comments
- any form of physical violence, such as hitting, pushing or spitting
- suggestive comments or other forms of sexual abuse
- forcing others to act against their will
- verbal threats of aggression against property or possessions
- using put-downs or belittling others' abilities and achievements
- using offensive names, dehumanizing, intimidating, teasing or spreading rumors about others or their families
- acts of vandalism

Who are the bullies?

Any person who aims in some way to hurt someone else by causing either physical or emotional pain is a bully. Some bullies do the hurting themselves, some are ringleaders who get others to bully on their behalf and some are members of a group. Others unintentionally encourage bullies by being onlookers when bullying occurs; they fail to intervene or report the bullying. Often bullies justify their behavior by saying they were only teasing or having fun. If the person being teased does not like it, or want it, and yet others persist with it, then it is a clear case of bullying. It is cruel and unfair behavior.

Bullying is a serious issue

Bullying is against school rules and against the law. The Jefferson School District takes bullying extremely seriously and will strictly enforce consequences for those involved. School leaders can only investigate incidents they know about. It is critical that parents, students and staff work in partnership to immediately report suspected incidents of bullying. All of us have a duty to ensure our schools are safe environments for all students. School leaders will immediately investigate reports and take action to stop bullying from occurring.

Bullying Report Form

A Bullying Report Form is available in the school office as well as on the school website. This form can be submitted to the school office and will be delivered to the principal. The principal will accept anonymous submissions, however it will make the investigation more difficult and prevent any communication about the resolution of the complaint. The school staff can also assist those who need help completing the form.

Jefferson School District Board Policy 5131.2 (a)

The Board recognizes the harmful effects of bullying on student well-being, student learning, and school attendance and desires to provide a welcoming, safe, and supportive school environment that protects students from physical, mental, and emotional harm. No individual or group shall, through physical, written, verbal, visual, or other means, harass, sexually harass, threaten, intimidate, cyberbully, cause bodily injury to, or commit hate violence against any student or school personnel, or retaliate against them for filing a complaint or participating in the complaint resolution process.

California Education Code Section 48900

48900. A pupil shall not be suspended from school or recommended for expulsion, unless the superintendent or the principal of the school in which the pupil is enrolled determines that the pupil has committed an act as defined pursuant to any of subdivisions (a) to (r), inclusive:

(r) Engaged in an act of bullying. For purposes of this subdivision, the following terms have the following meanings:

(1) "Bullying" means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or by means of an electronic act, and including one or more acts committed by a pupil or group of pupils as defined in Section 48900.2, 48900.3, or 48900.4, directed toward one or more pupils that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

(A) Placing a reasonable pupil or pupils in fear of harm to that pupil's or those pupils' person or property.

(B) Causing a reasonable pupil to experience a substantially detrimental effect on his or her physical or mental health.

(C) Causing a reasonable pupil to experience substantial interference with his or her academic performance.

(D) Causing a reasonable pupil to experience substantial interference with his or her ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

(2) "Electronic act" means the transmission of a communication, including, but not limited to, a message, text, sound, or image, or a post on a social network Internet Web site, by means of an electronic device, including, but not limited to, a telephone, wireless telephone or other wireless communication device, computer, or pager.

(3) "Reasonable pupil" means a pupil, including, but not limited to, an exceptional needs pupil, who exercises average care, skill, and judgment in conduct for a person of his or her age, or for a person of his or her age with his or her exceptional needs.

Response Bullying Report Form

Report Investigated By: _____ Date(s) of Investigation _____

Investigation Notes:	
Outcome:	
Communication with (Student, parent, staff)	Date of Communication



Jefferson School District
Bullying/Sexual Harrassment Prevention Activities

Activity	Expected Completion Date	Date Completed
Students Handbook with Bullying/Sexual Harrassment policy delivered to all students.	First week of school	
District and school websites updated with Bullying/Sexual Harrassment prevention and report form	As updated	
School Staff trained on Bullying/Sexual Harrassment Prevention Program including: • District policy/law overview • Bullying definition • Bullying Report Form • How to intervene to stop bullying and the responsibility to do so • Strategies to maintain a safe school environment School Staff includes teachers, custodians, secretaries, aides, campus aides and all other staff who will work with students. District will be responsible for training substitute teachers, bus drivers, food service and maintenance staff.	First Month of School	
Students trained on Bullying/Sexual Harrassment Prevention Program including: • District policy/law overview • Bullying definition • Bullying Report Form • What to do if you witness bullying • What to do if you are being bullied	First Month of School	
Parents informed of Bullying/Sexual Harrassment Prevention Program including: • District policy/law overview • Bullying definition • Bullying Report Form • The importance of partnering with the school to prevent bullying	First Month of School	