

Bullying is defined as a single significant act or a pattern of acts by one or more students directed at another student that exploits an imbalance of power and involves engaging in written or verbal expression, expression through electronic means, or physical conduct

- (1) has the effect or 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;
- (2) is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive enough that the action or threat creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for the student;
- (3) materially and substantially disrupts the educational process or the orderly operation of a classroom or school; or
- (4) infringes on the rights of the victim at school.

Bullying includes cyberbullying. (See below) This state law on bullying prevention applies to:

- (1) Bullying that occurs on or is delivered to school property or to the site of a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property;
- (2) Bullying that occurs on a publicly or privately owned school bus or vehicle being used for transportation of students to and from school or a school-sponsored or school-related activity;
and
- (3) Cyberbullying that occurs off school property or outside of a school-sponsored or school-related activity if the cyberbullying interferes with a student's educational opportunities or substantially disrupts the orderly operation of a classroom, school, or school-sponsored or school-related activity.

Cyberbullying means bullying that is done through the use of any electronic communication device, including through the use of a cellular or other type of telephone, a computer, a camera, electronic mail, instant messaging, text messaging, a social media application, an internet website, or any other internet-based communication tool.

Prohibition of Bullying/Cyberbullying

The district prohibits bullying and cyberbullying as defined by Policy FFI [Local]. (See glossary for a detailed definition for bullying and cyberbullying) Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is a violation of district policy. Bullying of a student may include hazing, threats, taunting, teasing, confinement, assault, demands for money, destruction of property, theft of valued possessions, name calling, rumor spreading, and ostracism.

Reports of bullying/cyberbullying shall be made as soon as possible after the alleged act or knowledge of the alleged act. A failure to immediately report may impair the district's ability to investigate and address the prohibited conduct.

To obtain assistance and intervention, any student who believes that he or she has experienced bullying/cyberbullying or believes that another student has experienced bullying/cyberbullying should immediately report the alleged acts to a teacher, counselor, principal, or other district employee.

Any district employee who suspects or receives notice that a student or group of students has or may have experienced bullying/cyberbullying shall immediately notify the principal or designee.

A report may be made orally or in writing. A report may also be reported anonymously through the CyFair TipLine (<http://www.cfisd.net/en/parents-students/safety/cyfair-tipline/>). The principal or designee shall reduce any oral report to written form.