

Bullying Definition

"Harassment, Intimidation, Hazing or Bullying" means any intentional written, verbal, graphic, or physical act that a student or group of students exhibited toward another particular student more than once and the behavior both:

- A.** causes mental or physical harm to the other student; and
- B.** is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for the other student.

"Harassment, Intimidating, Hazing or Bullying" also means electronically transmitted acts i.e., Internet, cell phone, personal digital assistance (PDA), or wireless hand-held device that a student has exhibited toward another particular student more than once and the behavior both:

- A.** causes mental or physical harm to the other student/school personnel; and
- B.** is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for the other student/school personnel.

In evaluating whether conduct constitutes harassment, intimidation, or bullying, special attention should be paid to the words chosen or the actions taken, whether such conduct occurred in front of others or was communicated to others, how the perpetrator interacted with the victim, and the motivation, either admitted or appropriately inferred. A school-sponsored activity shall mean any activity conducted on or off school-property (including school buses and other school-related vehicles) that is sponsored, recognized, or authorized by the State Board of Education.

Types of Conduct

Harassment, Intimidation, Hazing or Bullying can include many different behaviors including over intent to ridicule, humiliate, or intimidate another student or school personnel. Examples of conduct that could constitute prohibited behaviors include:

- A.** physical violence and/or attacks;
- B.** threats, taunts, and intimidation through words and/or gestures;
- C.** extortion, damage, or stealing of money and/or possessions;
- D.** exclusion from the peer group or spreading rumors; and,
- E.** repetitive and hostile behavior with the intent to harm others through the use of information and communication technologies and other web-based/on-line sites (also know as "cyber-bullying"), such as the following: posting slurs on web sites where students congregate or on web logs (personal on-line journals or diaries); ,sending abusive or threatening instant messages; ,using camera phones to take embarrassing photographs of students and posting them on-line; ,using web sites to circulate gossip and rumors to other students; and, and excluding others from an on-line group by falsely reporting them for inappropriate language to Internet Service Providers.