



# Student Discipline, Bullying & Cyber- Bullying

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Houston County BOE



# Local Board Policy: Requirements

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- House Bill 250 states that each local board of education shall adopt a policy that prohibits bullying of a student and shall require such prohibition to be included in the student code of conduct for schools in that system.

# What is Bullying... in Georgia

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1. Any willful attempt or threat to inflict injury on another person, when accompanied by an apparent present ability to do so.
2. Any intentional display of force that would give the victim reason to fear or expect immediate bodily harm.

# What is Bullying (continued)



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3. Any intentional written, verbal or physical act, which a reasonable person would perceive as being intended to threaten, harass, or intimidate.

## THAT...

- Causes another person substantial physical harm or visible bodily harm.
- Affects the student's education.
- Is so severe, **persistent**, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment.
- Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

# Where may Bullying occur?



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- Bullying may occur on school property, school vehicles, designated school bus stops, or at school related functions / activities.
- By use of data or software that is accessed through a computer, computer system, computer network, or other electronic technology supported by the school system.

# Cyber-Bullying & Bullying Off-Campus



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- Each Student Code of Conduct shall also contain provisions that address any off-campus behavior.
- Cell phones
- BOE sites and computer communication

# Mandatory Consequence

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- Acts of bullying shall be punished by a range of consequences through the progressive discipline process. Such consequences shall include, **at a minimum**, counseling and disciplinary action as appropriate under the circumstances. However, Georgia law mandates that upon a finding by the disciplinary hearing officer, panel or tribunal that a student in **grades 6-12** has committed the offense of bullying for the third time in a school year, the student shall be assigned to an alternative school.

# Notice Obligation



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- Each local BOE shall establish and publish in its local board policy a method to notify the parent, guardian, or other person who has control or charge of a student upon a finding by a school administrator that such student has committed an offense of bullying or is a victim of bullying.



# Responsibility of the Administration

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- Investigate any report of bullying promptly
- Develop yearly plan for educating staff, students, and parents
  - Each school will develop a plan for initial and ongoing bullying education that will take place throughout the school year. This plan will be shared with the Asst. Supt. for School Operations. All students and staff members must be educated on bullying and consequences within the first two weeks of school.
- Use provided system-wide Houston County form to document bullying
- Notify the parents of both the bully and the victim.
- Apply necessary consequences.



# Posting & Handbook Requirements

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- Each local BOE shall ensure that students and parents of students are notified of the prohibition against bullying and the penalties for violating the prohibition. This information shall be posted at each school and included in student and parent handbooks.
- Each school has a standard posting to place in the school in a visible location near the front office.

# Mandated Reporting



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- Any teacher or other school employee who has reliable information that would lead a reasonable person to suspect that someone is a target of bullying shall immediately report it to the principal.
- Once trained, teachers and staff members will sign-off that they have received training.