

Framingham Public Schools

Anti-Bullying Information

Framingham Public Schools believe that all students have a right to a safe and healthy school environment.

Bullying of any type is a major distraction from learning and has no place in a school setting.

Bullying Is Defined As:

REPEATED conduct that causes or creates:

- Physical or emotional harm
- Damage to a victim's property
- A hostile environment at school for the victim
- An infringement on the rights of the target at school
- A material or substantial disruption to the education process or the orderly operation of the school

Bullying May Involve But Is Not Limited To:

1. Unwanted teasing
2. Threatening/intimidating behavior
3. Stalking or cyber stalking
4. Cyber bullying (including cell phones)
5. Physical violence
6. Theft or destruction of school or personal property
7. Sexual, religious, or racial harassment
8. Public humiliation
9. Social exclusion, including incitement and/or coercion
10. Rumor or spreading of falsehoods

Off-School Grounds Bullying May Be Dealt With at School When:

- It creates a hostile environment at school for the victim or
- Materially and substantially disrupts the educational process or the orderly operation of the school

Differences Between Bullying And Other Forms Of Conflict

	Rough Physical Play	Physical Fighting	Bullying	Cyber-Bullying
Type of Friendship	Usually friends; often will do the same thing again	Usually not friends; typically not repeated	Usually not friends; is repeated	“Friends” and others; is repeated
Balance of Power	Power not an immediate issue	Power close to equal	Power is not equal	Power not clearly apparent
Intention of Action	Not about hurting	Trying to hurt each other	Trying to intimidate, hurt, humiliate, or threaten	Trying to intimidate, hurt, humiliate, or threaten
Affect Between Parties	Friendly; mutual	Negative; angry	Not friendly; ridicule	Varies between target, bully, and cyber-community

How Parents/Guardians Can Help:

- Talk to a school staff member regarding the incidences that your child has reported to you
- Closely monitor your child’s use of technology in the home including computers and cell phones:
 - Have technology (computers, etc...) in a common area of the home
 - Know with whom your child is communicating
 - Block access to technology when appropriate
 - Check Internet search history when circumstances warrant suspicion
- Assure your child that the problem will be addressed
- Reinforce your child’s self-esteem
- Make sure your child understands that he/she should tell a staff member so the appropriate action will be taken
- Encourage your child to appropriately self-advocate

Bullying reports may be made anonymously; however no disciplinary action shall be taken against a student solely on the basis of an anonymous report.

A student who knowingly makes a false accusation of bullying or retaliation shall be subject to disciplinary action.

WHEN TO CONTACT THE SCHOOL

The Situation	Your Role	What the School Can Do	What the School Cannot Do
Your child is afraid to see another child at school, or generally afraid to go to school because of any incident	Get as many specific details as possible about why this is occurring	Create a Safety Plan for your child	Discuss with you any details or actions taken with other children, including the aggressor
Your child reports to you an incident that occurred on-line or in person	Be sure to get very specific detailed information from your child about the incident	Take steps to ensure the safety of the children involved	Discuss with you the steps taken that involve any other child
Your child reports to you that they've heard a rumor about a future incident that may occur at school	Get as many specific details as possible	Investigate the plausibility of the future incident and take appropriate actions	Discuss with you the details regarding other children and/or parents
Your child or a credible source reports to you that another child is being bullied at school	Get as many specific details as possible	Investigate the situation	Report back to you any outcome of the investigation (with respect to the confidentiality above)
Situations that involve cyber-bullying through the use of technology and electronic communication	Print out relevant documents and get as many specific details as possible	Investigate the situation and refer to school resource officer if necessary	Discuss the steps taken if they involve another child
If you have a serious disagreement about a disciplinary action taken by the school	Begin by pursuing a private conversation with the appropriate administrator.	Respond to concerns in a timely manner	Discuss disciplinary actions taken with other students. Educators are bound by privacy policy.

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Bullying Report Process

