

## **BRAZOS ISD BULLYING POLICY AND REPORTING PROCEDURES**

### **Definition**

Defines bullying as engaging in written or verbal expression, expression through electronic means, or physical conduct that occurs on school property, at a school-sponsored or school-related activity, or in a vehicle operated by the district and that 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; or is sufficiently severe, persistent, and pervasive enough that the action or threat creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student. Considers conduct bullying if that conduct exploits an imbalance of power between the student perpetrator and the student victim through written or verbal expression or physical conduct and interferes with a student's education or substantially disrupts the operation of a school.

### **Policy**

The District prohibits bullying as defined by this policy (FFI Local). Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is a violation of FREEDOM FROM BULLYING

Brazos ISD has adopted a policy concerning bullying, including any necessary procedures, that prohibits the bullying of a student; prohibits retaliation against any person, including a victim, a witness, or another person, who in good faith provides information concerning an incident of bullying; establishes a procedure for providing notice of an incident of bullying to a parent or guardian of the victim and a parent or guardian of a bully within a reasonable amount of time after the incident; establishes the actions a student should take to obtain assistance and intervention in response to bullying; sets out the available counseling options for a student who is a victim or a witness to bullying or who engages in bullying; establishes procedures for reporting an incident of bullying, investigating a reported incident of bullying, and determining whether the reported incident of bullying occurred; prohibits the imposition of a disciplinary measure on a student who, after an investigation, is found to be a victim of bullying, on the basis of that student's use of reasonable self-defense in response to bullying; and requires that discipline for bullying of a student with disabilities comply with applicable requirements under federal law, including the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

### **Procedures**

Any students who believes that he or she has experienced bullying or believes another student has experienced bullying/harassment should immediately report the alleged acts to a teacher, counselor, principal, or other District employee. A report may be made orally, in writing, on the Stopit app or the Stopit website which can be found under Parents/Students on the Brazos ISD website at [www.brazosisd.net](http://www.brazosisd.net).

Any District employee that receives notice of alleged bullying should report the information immediately to the campus principal or designee.

If the report is made orally the campus principal shall reduce the report to written form. The campus principal or designee shall determine whether the allegations in the report, if proven, shall constitute prohibited conduct as defined by Board Policy and the Student Code of Conduct.

The campus principal or designee shall conduct an appropriate investigation into the allegations in the written report. The campus principal or designee shall promptly take interim action calculated to prevent bullying during the course of an investigation, if appropriate.

The investigation shall be completed within ten school business days unless extenuating circumstances exist. The campus principal shall prepare a written report of the investigation, including a determination of whether bullying occurred, and send a copy to the superintendent, parent, and/or their designee of both the victim and perpetrator of bullying.

If the results of the investigation determine that bullying has occurred, the District shall promptly respond with the appropriate disciplinary or corrective action reasonably calculated to address the conduct in accordance with the District's Student Code of Conduct. The District may take action if the conduct did not rise to the level of bullying if violation of the Student Code of Conduct did occur.

The confidentiality of the complainant, the person against whom the complaint was filed, co-conspirators, and witnesses will be maintained as much as possible. Limited disclosures may be necessary to conduct a thorough investigation.

Students who witness bullying should report it as soon as possible so to not hinder an investigation of alleged bullying activity so campus administration can deal with the allegations in a timely manner.

After an investigation has determined that a student was a victim of bullying the victim shall not be disciplined if they exercised reasonable self-defense in response to the bullying.

The District shall comply with all federal laws as defined under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the Student Code of Conduct in handling students with disabilities as defined by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act regarding whether they were a victim or perpetrator of acts of bullying.

Students who were victimized by bullying may contact the campus counselor for counseling as needed. The District retains the right to approach students who have been victimized to provide counseling services. In addition students who have bullied other students shall have access to counseling services also. In most cases counseling may be required by campus administration.