

BULLYING

Bullying is intentional harmful behavior initiated by one or more students and directed toward another student. Bullying exists when a student with more social and/or physical power deliberately dominates and harasses another who has less power. Bullying is unjustified and typically repeated.

Bullying differs from conflict. Two or more persons can have a disagreement or a conflict. Bullying involves a power imbalance element where a bully targets a person who has difficulty defending himself or herself.

FORMS:

Physical: Physical bullying involves harmful actions against another person's body.

Examples include: biting, kicking, pushing, pinching, hitting, tripping, pulling hair, any form of violence intimidation.

Verbal: Verbal bullying involves speaking to a person or about a person in an unkind or harmful way. Examples include: sarcasm, teasing, put-downs, name calling, phone calls, spreading rumors, or hurtful gossip.

Emotional: Emotional bullying involves behaviors that upset, exclude, or embarrass a person.

Examples include: nasty notes, saying mean things using technology, intentional exclusion from games or activities, tormenting, threatening, humiliation or social embarrassment.

Sexual: Sexual bullying singles out a person because of gender and demonstrates unwarranted or unwelcome sexual behavior. Examples include: sexual comments, abusive comments, unwanted physical contact.

Racial: racial bullying involves rejection or isolation of a person because of ethnicity. Examples include: gestures, racial slurs or taunts, name calling, make fun of customs/skin color/accent/food choices.

Cyberbullying is a form of indirect or social bullying that uses technological communications to humiliate, harass, embarrass, tease, intimidate, threaten, or slander one or more students.

Cyberbullying is the act of being cruel to others by sending or posting harmful material or compromising photographs online or through a cell phone.

Bullying will be monitored and/or handled by the White Lake School District staff, administration, and board of education on a case by case system. Bullying will not be tolerated and can lead to strict discipline including suspension. Families will be notified as timely as possible.

1st Reading: July 13, 2009

Approved: August 10, 2009