

Prohibition Against Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying, Teen Dating Violence and Sexual Violence

Harassment, intimidation, bullying, teen dating violence and sexual violence are prohibited in the public schools of Barrington, Rhode Island (R.I.G.L. 16-21-26, 16-21-30)

No student, school employee, volunteer or other member of the school community shall at school personally engage in, nor solicit and/or encourage any other individual to engage in, any action, of harassing, intimidating, bullying, teen dating violence or sexual violence of any other student.

Definition

At school means in a classroom, on or immediately adjacent to school premises, on a school bus or other school-related vehicle, at an official school bus stop, or at any school-sponsored activity or event whether or not it is on school grounds.

Harassment, intimidation or bullying occurs when a student intentionally assaults, batters, threatens, harasses, stalks, menaces, intimidates, extorts, humiliates, or taunts another student. Bullying also occurs when a student or a group of students organize a campaign of shunning against another student or when a student or a group of students maliciously spread rumors about another student.

Dating Violence occurs when there is a pattern of behavior where one person uses threats of, or actually uses, physical, sexual, verbal or emotional abuse to control his or her dating partner.

Sexual Assault includes behaviors that are attempted or perpetrated against a victim's will or when a victim cannot consent because of age, disability, or the influence of alcohol or drugs. Sexual assault may involve actual or threatened physical force, use of weapons, coercion, intimidation, or pressure and may include:

- intentional touching of someone in ways that are unwanted
- voyeurism
- exposure to exhibitionism
- undesired exposure to pornography, or
- public display of images that were taken in a private context or when the victim was unaware

General

The School Department shall, from time to time, provide training of school employees and volunteers who have significant contact with students concerning this policy.

The violation of this policy by students shall be punishable in accordance with the Code of Conduct established at each school.

The violation of this policy by an employee, volunteer or other member of the school community shall subject the individual to disciplinary action up to and including termination.

Reporting Responsibilities

The principal of each school shall establish – and prominently publicize to students, staff, volunteers, and parents – how to report bullying and how such reports will be acted on. The victim of bullying, dating violence, or sexual violence; witnesses/bystanders to such actions; or anyone who has information that these actions have occurred may file a report.

Investigation

The principal, or designee, shall develop procedures and guidelines for the investigation of a bullying, dating violence, and sexual violence reports. If the allegation is found to be credible, appropriate disciplinary sanctions, subject to due processes procedures, shall be imposed.

Whenever bullying, teen dating violence, or sexual violence involved conduct that violates criminal law, the police shall be notified.

Disciplinary Sanctions

Disciplinary sanctions of bullying, dating violence, or sexual violence may include but are not limited to loss of privilege to participate in extra curricular activities including athletics and school social events; loss of school bus transportation; and – depending on the extent of involvement in the prohibited activity – suspension from school.

Victim Rights and Protection

The district is committed to creating a campus environment that promotes timely and fair adjudication of bullying, teen dating violence, and sexual violence cases. Principals shall establish guidelines to protect the rights and privacy of the victim as well as the due process rights of the alleged perpetrator.

Prevention

The principal of each school shall ensure that students and staff are instructed on how to identify, prevent and report bullying, teen dating violence, and sexual violence. The principal shall also ensure that the school health program and counseling services include the appropriate social skills training to help students avoid isolation and help them interact in a healthy manner.

School staff shall model correct and courteous behavior to each other, to students, parents and visitors. Abusive or humiliating language or demeanor shall not be accepted. The staff shall ensure that each student is known by a teacher that the student can turn to if abuse develops. To the extent possible, the influence of cliques and other exclusive student grouping shall be diminished by the creation of inclusive school activities in which all students are encouraged to participate.

Approved 12/18/08