

Bristol Township School District Bullying Information and Reporting

Definitions:

Bullying means an intentional electronic, written, verbal or physical act or series of acts directed at another student or students, which occurs in a school setting and/or outside a school setting, that is severe, persistent or pervasive, not a single incident, that creates an atypical imbalance of power, and has the effect of doing any of the following:

1. Substantial interference with a student's education.
 - Increase in student absenteeism over a short period of time that is not directly related to a home or medical event
 - Atypical refusal to participate in events/activities that the child would regularly participate in
 - Sudden drop in grades that cannot otherwise be explained.
 - Change in behavior not typical of the child's past performance.
2. Creation of a threatening environment.
 - Student refuses to attend a class/group/activity at school that the child would otherwise be a participant.
3. Substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school.
 - The attention of staff to address severe, persistent or pervasive behaviors results in frequent interruptions of classroom or building routines.
 - Teachers are forced to reteach lessons on a frequent basis due to classroom interruptions by students who display behaviors as defined above.

Bullying, as defined by school policy, includes cyberbullying.

School setting means in the school, on school grounds, in school vehicles, at a designated bus stop or at any activity sponsored, supervised or sanctioned by the school.

What to do in the event that you or your child suspects that they are being bullied:

- 1) Notify your building principal, assistant principal, or counselor of the suspected case of bullying and provide them with the following information:
 - a. Physical evidence of the issue being reported (emails, social media posts, pictures, text messages, voicemails, etc.)
 - b. Where was the student at the time of the incident?
 - c. What time did the incident take place?
 - d. Who was involved in the incident?
 - e. Were there any additional witnesses to the incident?
 - f. What did the reporting student hear?
 - g. What did the reporting student see?
 - h. Is this the first time that there has been a situation between the students involved? If not,
 - i. When has this occurred in the past?
 - ii. Where has it occurred?
 - iii. Who was the incident reported to?
 - iv. What was said in the past incident(s)?
 - v. What was seen in the past Incident(s)?
 - i. What is the current emotional and physical status of the reporting student?

What to expect once a report is deemed an act of bullying:

- The reporting student will be interviewed by the principal or assistant principal within one school day from the date of the report.
- If the student presents with emotional distress, the student will be seen by the school counselor, social worker, or psychologist.
- If the student identifies physical ailments, the student will be seen by the school nurse.
- Within 15 days of the reported event, the principal or assistant principal will notify the parent of their findings. The principal will notify the parent of the supports and/or services that are available to the victim. Pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, the principal or assistant principal will **not** report on the disciplinary action imposed on other students involved in the matter.