

What is Bullying/Cyberbullying and what steps are being taken to address the issue of bullying prevention at school?

The following is a definition of Bullying as defined by BOLD School District Policy 514 and MS 121A.695

Bullying/Cyberbullying means any written or verbal communication, through face to face, electronic media or a combination of both, physical act or gesture, or pattern thereof, by a student that is intended to cause or is perceived as causing distress to one or more students and which substantially interferes with another student's or students' educational benefits, opportunities, or performance. Bullying includes, but is not limited to conduct by a student against another student that a reasonable person under the circumstances knows or should know has the effect of:

- 1. harming a student;*
- 2. damaging a student's property;*
- 3. placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or property;*
or
- 4. creating a hostile educational environment for a student.*

The BOLD Schools has implemented the following steps to address the issue of bullying prevention at School:

- 1. The District has taken steps to raise school-wide awareness of the seriousness of bullying through speakers, review of anti-bullying policies, and other initiatives.*
- 2. Students are surveyed to determine the extent of bullying behavior in school.*
- 3. Administrators, teachers, athletic coaches, and other staff enforce the District policies and intervene if bullying occurs.*
- 4. Students are encouraged to file a complaint when bullied or witness bullying.*
- 5. The School District Investigates reports received about bullying.*
- 6. Steps are taken to prevent retaliation by the bully against complainant.*
- 7. The administration takes action after the investigation is completed. Discipline may include warning, suspension, or expulsion depending on the nature and severity of the bullying.*
- 8. Depending on the situation, some forms of bullying may constitute criminal conduct and the School District would report such offenses to the police and or juvenile authorities.*
- 9. The District keeps appropriate records documenting action to stop student bullying.*
- 10. Student complaints about other students that fall into the teasing/name-calling category of typical student misconduct are dealt with by the administrator and or staff person involved, some will require more serious action.*