



Santa Fe ISD

Bullying Prevention Information Item



Definition of Bullying

Provided locally in SFISD Board Policy FFI(LEGAL) per Texas Education Code

1. Means a single significant act or a pattern of acts by one or more students directed at another student that exploits an imbalance of power and involves engaging in written or verbal expression through electronic means, or physical conduct that satisfies the applicability requirements and that:



Definition of Bullying

Texas Education Code 37.0832

- 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;
 - Is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive enough that the action or threat creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student;
 - Materially and substantially disrupts the educational process or the orderly operation of a classroom or school;
or
 - Infringes on the rights of the victim at school; and
2. Includes cyberbullying.



Where does the Policy apply?

- Bullying that occurs on or is delivered to school property or to the site of a school-sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property
- On district-provided transportation
- Cyberbullying that occurs on or off of school property if it interferes with a student's educational opportunities or substantially disrupts the orderly operation of a classroom, school, or school-sponsored or school-related activity



Historical Look at Bullying Policies

- State Legislatures focused on policy development regarding bullying prevention in 1999 following the shooting at Columbine High School
- In 2011, 46 states had bullying laws, including Texas
- House Bill 1942 (2011)
 - Implemented in the 2012-13 School Year
 - Defined bullying
 - Outlined bullying procedures
- Senate Bill 179 (David's Law; 2017)
 - Approved by the Board of Trustees in December 2017 and implemented in the 2017-2018 school year
 - Definition of Cyberbullying: Bullying that is done through the use of any electronic communication device, including through the use of a cellular or other type of telephone, a computer, a camera, electronic mail, instant messaging, text messaging, a social media application, an Internet website, or any other Internet-based communication tool.
 - Established timelines for parent contacts
 - Extends beyond the school day



District Procedures Regarding Bullying Prevention

- SFISD Board Policy FFI(LOCAL) and Texas Education Code 37.0832 outline the District's guidelines for bullying prevention
 - Bullying is prohibited, as well as, retaliation against those who report bullying
 - Establishes reporting procedures, including multiple ways for anonymous reporting
 - Each campus has a link for anonymous bullying reporting
 - SFISD Police Department – Tribal Tips
 - Anyone can report bullying to a teacher, counselor, librarian, administrator, coach, etc.
 - Requires effective investigative procedures



Bullying Investigation Procedures

- Investigation begins within 24 hours of the report
- A “Stay Away Agreement” is put in place, if needed
- Reporting to parents of the alleged victim (within 3 days) and the alleged perpetrator (within a reasonable time frame)
- Investigation concludes within 10 days
- Administrator utilizes the Bullying Checklist for Schools, published by the Texas School Safety Center at Texas State University to determine if bullying occurred
- Parents are notified of the outcome of the investigation



Bullying Investigation Procedures

- Discipline is determined based on the SFISD Student Code of Conduct
- Counseling services are assigned
- Management plan is developed
- Follow-up
- Notification to the district as to the determination of whether the incident is determined to be bullying, the discipline assigned and dates of parent notifications



SFISD Updates to Reporting Process

- USDE Civil Rights Data Collection
 - Every two years (2017-18 is a reporting year)
 - District Reports Bullying Policy Online
 - Campuses maintain data related to bullying
- New Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) codes created for district reporting of bullying
- PEIMS Data Collection includes multiple types of data such as financial, student demographics, assessment, special programs, attendance, discipline, etc.



Bullying Prevention

- October is Bullying Prevention Month
 - RJW
 - DJK
 - SFJH
 - SFHS
- Advisory/Classroom Counselor Presentations
- Safe Schools Ambassadors
- Positive Behavior Intervention Support
- STOP School Violence Grant
- SFISD Threat Assessment Teams
- DARE Program
- Tribal Tips and Anonymous Campus Reporting
- Reporting to counselors, teachers, librarians, coaches, administrators, etc.



Conclusion

- The District prohibits bullying
- Bullying is taken seriously upon every report
- SFISD provides multiple means of reporting
- There are policies and procedures in place for investigating and recording
- Disciplinary procedures are enforced
- Counseling is provided
- If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Dr. Shuman



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