

**CYBER BULLYING
ACT 115**

Students using any electronic devices including telephone, cell phone, wireless communication devices, computer, or pager as a means to harass another student member.

ACT 115 applies to electronic act whether or not it originated on school property or with school equipment if the electronic act is directed specifically at students or school personnel.

This punishment will take the form of suspension, a recommendation for expulsion, and notification of the police if necessary.

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ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

The Piggott School District has an obligation and a commitment to provide a safe learning environment for each of its students. Student achievement is best attained in an atmosphere that is free from the fear of emotional and physical intimidations and threats. Bullying is a destructive behavior that will erode the foundational principles on which a school is built. This school will not tolerate any behavior that is classified under the definition of bullying and will take steps needed to eliminate such behavior.

Believing that prevention is the strongest means available in eliminating bullying, this school will offer programs and/or educational materials regarding the nature of bullying and its consequences should a child choose to engage in this type of behavior. The programs and/or materials will emphasize that this district will not tolerate bullying, and that school employees, volunteers, and students are encouraged to report any instance of bullying without fear of consequences. Any report will take into account the age of the offending student, the level of seriousness of the behavior, and whether or not the offending student has developed a habit of engaging in bullying.

After completing an investigation of the reported incident, a student who has been found guilty of participating in bullying behavior will be subject to disciplinary action that is appropriate to the degree of seriousness of the bullying behavior.

For the purposes of this policy, bullying is defined as any expression (written or verbal), physical act (gesture, contact, staring, etc.) or a pattern there of, that is intended to cause distress or fear upon one or more students. A student will be found violating this policy if his conduct has been found to have the effect of humiliation, embarrassment, or other detrimental results on a fellow student, and is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it limits the student's ability to participate in or benefit from an educational program or activity.

Students who believe they have been victimized by a bully or parents who believe their child has been victimized by a bully, are encouraged to file a complaint by contacting a school counselor, teacher, or administrator who will assist them in getting help for the child and take appropriate steps to ensure that such behavior is stopped. To the extent possible, complaints will be treated in a confidential manner. Limited disclosure may be necessary in order to complete a thorough investigation. Students, parents, or teachers who file a complaint against a student who is guilty of being a

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bully, will not be subject to retaliation or reprisal in any form.

Students or adults, who knowingly fabricate allegations and falsely accuse a student of being a bully, will be subject to disciplinary action. Individuals who withhold information, purposely provide inaccurate facts, or otherwise hinder an investigation of a student for the purposes of bullying, shall be subject to disciplinary action.

The school will make every reasonable effort to contact, as soon as possible, the parents of any student who is reported to have been the subject of bullying.

Legal References: ACT 681 (2003 – 84th General Assembly)

For minimum and maximum punishments regarding bullying, please see Piggott Elementary School and Piggott High School sections of this handbook.

SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Any student at Piggott School District is entitled to the same protection against sexual harassment as an employee in the workplace as stated in Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Peer Sexual Harassment by the Arkansas School Board Association. (Copies may be found in the superintendent's office.)

Sexual harassment is deliberate or repeated sexual behavior, or a sex-based nature, that is unwelcome, not asked for, not returned, and that creates an intimidating, hostile or offensive environment. The behavior can be verbal nonverbal, or physical. It is deliberate, not happening by accident, but by someone's intent and/or it is repeatedly happening more than once. The victim, as well as the harasser, may be a female or a male. The victim does not have to be of the opposite sex.

Type of Conduct	Sexual Conduct Associated with Sexual Harassment
Physical	Touching
	Patting
	Pinching
	Hugging
	Grabbing
Verbal	Propositions
	Sexual jokes
	Obscene language that is gender-specific or sexual in