

Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying

No student, school employee, contractual agent, volunteer or other member of the school community shall at school engage in, nor solicit and/or encourage any other individual to engage in, any action of harassing, intimidating and/or bullying any other person.

Definitions

"At school" means in a classroom, elsewhere 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 held on school premises.

"Harassment, intimidation, or bullying" means any intentional written, verbal, electronically communicated, or physical act or threat of a physical act that, under the totality of the circumstances: (i) a reasonable person should know would have the effect of physically or emotionally harming the student, damaging a student's property, placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to his or her person, or placing a student in reasonable fear of damage to his or her property; or (ii) is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive to create an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student. [R.I.G.L. §16-21-26(a)(2)]

"Electronic communications" shall include any verbal, textual or graphic communication of any kind effected, created or transmitted by the use of any electronic device, including, but not limited to, a computer, telephone, cellular telephone, text-messaging device and/or personal data assistance device.

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, contractual agent or other member of the school community shall subject the individual to disciplinary action up to and including termination.

Legal Reference

Rhode Island General Laws §16-21-26

Approved 05/05/05 Revised 11/17/08