

Bullying

Sundown ISD prohibits bullying on school property, at school-sponsored or school-related activities, or in any vehicle operated by the district. Sundown ISD is committed to protecting students from bullying, harassment, or discrimination for any reason and of any type. Sundown believes that all students are entitled to a safe, equitable, and harassment-free school experience. Bullying, harassment, or discrimination will not be tolerated by the district and any student or parent of a student who believes that the student or another student has experienced bullying or that a student has engaged in bullying is encouraged to immediately report the incident. A substantiated complaint against a student will result in disciplinary action, according to the nature of the offense. Retaliation against anyone involved in the complaint process is a violation of district policy and is prohibited.

Bullying may be verbal or written expression or expression through electronic means, or physical conduct. Bullying occurs when a student or group of students inflicts physical hurt or psychological distress on one or more students. It is further defined as direct purposeful written, verbal, nonverbal, physical behavior, including but not limited to any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture that has the potential to create an intimidating, unfriendly or abusive educational environment; cause long term damage; cause discomfort or humiliation; results in harm to the student or the student's property; places a student in fear of harm to himself/herself or his/her property; or unreasonably interferes with the student's school performance or participation, is carried out repeatedly and is often characterized by an imbalance of power.

Bullying may involve, but is not limited to:

- Unwanted teasing
- Threats
- Intimidation
- Stalking
- Cyberbullying (texting on cell phones, social websites, etc.)
- Physical violence
- Theft
- Sexual, religious, or racial harassment
- Public humiliation (rumors or spreading gossip)
- Destruction of school or personal property
- Social exclusion

Students or parents may report an alleged incident of bullying, orally or in writing, to a teacher, counselor, principal or other district employee. At this point, the appropriate campus administrator will follow up on the reported incident/complaint and any other matters pertaining to the complaint. We encourage you to communicate with your child's campus administrator during this time.