

BULLYING / HARASSMENT

All students have the right to an educational atmosphere that is free from verbal and/or physical abuse. Bullying is defined as repeated physical or verbal mistreatment of a person where an imbalance of physical or psychological power is created with the bully being stronger (or perceived to be stronger) than the victim and which causes a disruption to the learning environment. Aggressive behavior or bullying is any behavior that may subject a student to insults, taunts, or challenges whether verbal or physical in nature (either isolated or repeated behavior), which are likely to intimidate and/or provoke a violent or disorderly response from the student being treated in this matter. This also includes the encouragement or prodding of other students to engage in these types of aggressive behaviors.

These behaviors are, but are not limited to:

Physical: hitting, kicking, grabbing, spitting

Verbal: name calling, racist remarks, put-downs, extortion

Indirect: spreading rumors, wearing or possessing items depicting or implying hatred or prejudice, exclusion from peer group, taking and hiding or destroying another's papers or other possessions

Written: threatening e-mail, notes, and/or graffiti

Coercion: forcing other students into acts against their wishes