



St. Johns County School District believes that all students and employees be afforded a setting that is safe, secure, and free from bullying and harassment of any kind. In compliance with Florida Statute 1006.147 and School Board Rule 3.21, the school district has adopted a comprehensive policy prohibiting bullying and harassment.

Definition of Bullying

For behaviors to be labeled as bullying, all three of the following components must be present:

1. **The behavior is repeated:** A person has bullied the same student(s) more than once.
2. **The behavior is intentional:** A student who bullies is trying to purposefully hurt the student he/she is bullying, even if they have been told to stop.
3. **There is an imbalance of power:** The bully has the power, while the student(s) being bullied do not feel like they can do anything to make it stop. Bullying is NOT a conflict where both parties have equal power.

The St. Johns County School District's policy prohibiting bullying and harassment defines bullying as **systematically** and **chronically** inflicting physical hurt or psychological distress on one or more students. Examples of this may include:

- Cyberbullying
- Teasing and taunting
- Social exclusion
- Threat
- Intimidation
- Stalking
- Physical violence
- Theft
- Sexual, religious or racial/ethnic harassment
- Public or private humiliation
- Destruction of property

Reporting Bullying and Harassment Incidents

Incidents of bullying or harassment can be reported as follows:

- In person at the school
- In writing to the school
- Online by using the "Report Bullying" button
- By phone to the school

If bullying is reported anonymously, please provide enough details for school staff to investigate.

The following forms can be used to report bullying:

- [Bullying and/or Harassment Reporting Form – Middle/High School and Employee](#)
- [Report Bullying using our Online Form](#)

An investigation will be promptly initiated for all reported incidents of bullying or harassment.

What to do if your child is being bullied:

1. **Focus on your child:** Be supportive and gather information about the repeated bullying.
2. **Contact your child's teacher or principal:** Do NOT contact the parents of the student who is bullying your child. Allow the school to assist in a resolution.
3. **Help your child become more resilient to bullying:** Help your child to seek out friendly and positive students in his/her class. Encourage them to develop talents and skills that help them be more confident among his/her peers. Teach them to talk to an adult when they need help.