

# Fort Bend Independent School District

## NOTICE OF PARENT AND STUDENT RIGHTS: BULLYING, CYBERBULLYING, or HARASSMENT

### FOR PARENTS, STUDENTS, TEACHERS

The Board believes student success is best achieved in a supportive climate and safe environment. Therefore, the District shall provide a learning environment in which all students in the school community are treated with dignity and respect. In alignment with providing a safe learning environment, proactive prevention of bullying, communication, and training for staff and students shall be a priority.

Bullying, cyberbullying, and retaliation, as defined by this policy, are prohibited. Retaliation against anyone, including a targeted student or witness who in good faith makes a report of bullying or cyberbullying or provides information concerning an incident or participates in an investigation, is a violation of district policy and is prohibited.

FBISD strives to ensure that all of its students and employees are free from bullying and harassment including violence in students' relationships. All charges of bullying, harassment, and dating violence are to be taken very seriously by our students, faculty, staff, administration and parents. We will respond to each and every report filed by students in a fair, thorough and just manner. Every effort will be made to protect the due process rights of all targets and all alleged offenders.

Bullying is defined as a single significant act or a pattern of acts by one or more students directed at another student that exploits and imbalance of power and involves engaging in written or verbal expression, expression through electronic means, or physical conduct that:

1. Has the effect or will have the effect of physically harming a student, damaging a student's property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or of damage to the student's property;
2. Is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive enough that the action or threat creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student.
3. Materially and substantially disrupts the educational process or the orderly operation of a classroom or school; or
4. Infringes on the rights of the target at school.

#### Bullying includes cyberbullying

1. Bullying that occurs on or is delivered to school property or to the site of a school- sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property;
2. Bullying that occurs on a publicly or privately owned school bus or vehicle being used for transportation of students to or from school or a school-sponsored or school-related activity; and
3. Cyberbullying that occurs off school property or outside of a school-sponsored or school-related activity if the cyberbullying interferes with a student's educational opportunities or substantially disrupts the orderly operation of a classroom, school, or school-sponsored or school-related activity.

#### Cyberbullying

Is bullying that is done through the use of any electronic communication device, including through the use of a cellular or other type of telephone, a computer, a camera, electronic mail, instant messaging, text messaging, a social media application, an Internet website, or any other Internet-based communication tool.

#### Retaliation

Harming or threatening to harm another: (1) on account of their service as a district employee or volunteer, (2) to

prevent or delay another's service to the district, or (3) because the person intends to report a crime.

Students who believe they have been harassed or bullied by fellow students or district employees are encouraged to promptly report such incidents to the campus principal or other campus professional. To the greatest extent possible, complaints shall be treated as confidential. Limited disclosure may be necessary to complete a thorough investigation.

A student or parent who has a complaint alleging bullying, harassment or dating violence may request a conference with the principal or the principal's designee. If the student or parent is not satisfied with the response from the campus staff, they may request a conference with the appropriate Assistant Superintendent (see FNG (Local)), or the district's Title IX Coordinator.

Complaints will be documented and investigated in accordance with district policy and guidelines.

Any staff member who observes an incidence of bullying or harassment that involves physical or sexual assault or threats will report the incident immediately to the principal. Any staff member who learns of an incident or threat may submit a complaint form on behalf of the targeted student.

For more information about your rights and responsibilities concerning dating violence, stalking, or sexual harassment, or sexual assault, please contact the district Title IX Coordinator [TitleIX@fortbendisd.gov](mailto:TitleIX@fortbendisd.gov)

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*Student Name (print)*

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*Parent Name (print)*

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*Administrator/CBC*

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*Date Notice of Rights Provided*