

MARSHALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SERIES 400 STUDENTS

443.71

ANTI BULLYING

The Marshall Public Schools Board of Education supports an educational environment that is free of bullying. It is the policy of the District that its students, employees, or volunteers will not be allowed to engage in any form of bullying or intimidation toward other students, employees, or volunteers.

Bullying includes aggressive behavior that is intentional and involves an imbalance of power between the bully and the bullied. It is typically repeated over time by either an individual or a group. Bullying takes many forms, including, but not limited to, physical assaults, verbal assaults, nonverbal or emotional threats. Bullying is a form of victimization and is not necessarily a result of or part of an ongoing conflict. Behaviors characterized as bullying may take place at school; during a school-sponsored activity; on school busses; or through the use of school equipment in the case of “cyber-bullying.”

The three main types of bullying are:

1. Physical: Physical bullying involves harmful actions against a person’s body. Examples include, but are not limited to: hitting, pinching, poking, pulling hair, choking, kicking, tripping, spitting, hazing, biting, excessive tickling, and inappropriate touching. It also involves interfering with another person’s property and stealing.
2. Verbal: Verbal bullying involves speaking to a person or about a person in a way that is derogatory, unkind or hurtful. Examples include but are not limited to: teasing, name calling, insulting or inappropriate remarks, threatening, spreading rumors, and making discriminatory remarks or false accusations.
3. Non-verbal/Emotional: Non-verbal bullying refers to behaviors that upset, exclude, or embarrass others. Examples include, but are not limited to: intentionally leaving a person out of a game or activity, extortion, manipulating friends, ostracizing, pressuring peers, making rude gestures such as poking out tongue or staring, writing hate notes about a person that will be upsetting to that person, using computers or telecommunications to send embarrassing, slanderous, threatening or intimidating messages to or about a person/s.

Students who believe they have been subjected to bullying or any parents/guardians who believe their student has been subjected to bullying should report the incident(s) to the classroom teacher or activity supervisor for resolution. If the issue is not resolved to the satisfaction of the student

and/or student's parent/guardian, the concern may be submitted in writing to the building principal for review and action. If an employee or volunteer believes they have been subjected to bullying, they should report the incident to the principal or volunteer supervisor for review and action. These complaints will be investigated promptly and be kept confidential within the bounds of the district's investigation and the law. If a student, parent, employee, or volunteer is not satisfied with the outcome of the informal investigation, the complainant may present a complaint in writing to request a formal investigation of the complaint under the district's discrimination complaint procedures.

Third party witnesses are strongly encouraged to report observed incidents of bullying to the Administration. Efforts will be made, when requested, to maintain the confidentiality of a witness's identity unless the witness is requested to testify in a hearing.

Retaliation against any individual who complains of bullying or anyone who participates in a bullying investigation is strictly forbidden by the District, and anyone who practices such retaliation will be subject to immediate discipline, up to and including suspension or expulsion.

Legal References:

Cross Reference: Board Exhibit 443.71 Bullying Incident Report
443.72 Cyber Bullying

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