

Frisco ISD Elementary Bullying/Harassment/Hazing

Rules and Consequences

Bullying/Harassment/Hazing are prohibited in any form on school property, in a school vehicle, or at a school-sponsored event. Students who have bullied/harassed/hazed others are in violation of school policy and may be subjected to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension and expulsion.

Bullying is when a student or group of students engages in any gesture or written, verbal, or physical or computerized or other electronically transmitted act, or threat that: 1) Will have the effect of physically harming a student, damaging a student's property or reputation, or placing a student in reasonable fear of harm; or 2) Is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that the action or threat creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student. Bullying is divided into four broad categories:

Physical – harming someone's body in any way, taking someone's possessions, or damaging someone's possessions in any way.

Emotional – harming someone's self worth by verbal and nonverbal communication. This includes, but is not limited to, teasing, name calling, insulting, intimidating, threatening, making gestures, staring/"mugging", or eye rolling.

Social – Harming another person's group acceptance through gossip, rumors, trying to ruin their reputation, arranging public humiliation, excluding others, getting others to exclude others, or interfering in someone's making or keeping friends in any way.

Electronic Cyberbullying – Harming someone through the use of text messages, phone calls, emails, Twitter, Facebook, My Space, photos, or by any other electronic means.

Note: Not all forms of aggression are considered bullying. For example, it is not usually bullying when 1) two friends get into an argument 2) someone calls someone a name one time 3) or, two students of equal power lose control of their anger and get into a fight. For bullying to exist, there must be an imbalance of power (either physically, or in lack of social skills to defend oneself, or in regard to perceived status), and in most cases (i.e. as with a Level 1 bullying incident) it must occur "repeatedly and over time". Although if severe enough (i.e. as in a Level 2 or Level 3 bullying incident), a one time event can be considered bullying.

Harassment is bullying by threats of or actual physical violence. The creation by whatever means of a climate of hostility or intimidation; or the use of language, conduct, or symbols in such a manner as to be commonly understood to convey hatred, contempt, or prejudice or have the effect of insulting or stigmatizing an individual. Harassment includes, but is not limited to, bullying on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, or disability or any other basis prohibited by law (such as dating violence and sexual harassment). All matters involving harassment will be reviewed for possible referral to law enforcement officials.

Hazing means any intentional, knowing, or reckless act, occurring on or off campus of an educational institution, by one person alone, or acting with others, directed against a student that endangers, or has the potential to endanger, the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining a membership of a group, a team, or organization. All matters involving hazing issues will be reported to law enforcement officials.

Consequences for Violation of School Bullying/Harassment/Hazing Rules (Elementary)

Level 1

Consequence

Minimum: Verbal Reprimand and warning of future consequences

The third level 1 classroom offense will result in a level 2 consequence and a referral to the Assistant Principal for discipline and the Counselor for counseling. All future level 1 violations will result in level 2, or above consequences.

Level 2

Consequences

Minimum: Detention, and/or removal from some privilege, referred to the Assistant Principal and Counselor, name given to Bully Prevention Task Force, alert all teachers (need to know basis), counseling sessions and contact parents with additional consequences if necessary.

Optional: Other possible consequences include: Removal from the classroom, Payment of damages to property, sign agreement to “stay away” from the other person, support group, letter of apology, written assignments, and/or book reports related to the topic, restricted movement in the building, isolated lunch, escorted by an adult to class, removal from extracurricular activities, ISS, OSS, refer to law enforcement officials (automatic referral for issues of harassment related to gender identity, race, religion, national origin, or disability) .

Level 3

Consequences

Minimum: ISS, OSS, refer to law enforcement officials (when necessary) and ongoing counseling.

Optional: The same as for Level 2, plus complete the schools Bully Prevention Program which includes up to 6 counseling sessions and writing a paper, or attend 6 week campus support group and meet with parents.

Reporting vs. Tattling: What's the Difference?

Stress to students that “reporting helps stop trouble” and “tattling wastes time and causes trouble.” Drill them on this topic! By this age, the thought of “being a snitch” is ingrained in their minds. Due to this fact, we have to work hard at making them to feel comfortable in reporting. Assure anonymity, discuss consequences if they don't report (someone could get harmed), if you say nothing then you're helping the student who bullies get away with hurting others.

