

Frequently Asked Questions

Do you want to know more about anti- bullying?

The School Board of Broward County has established an ANTI-BULLYING POLICY for all Broward County students and staff that prohibit bullying and harassment - by anyone, to anyone!

Take a look!

The Policy defines bullying as: “Bullying means systematically and chronically inflicting physical hurt or psychological distress on one or more students or employees. It is further defined as: unwanted purposeful written, verbal, nonverbal, or physical behavior, including but not limited to any threatening, insulting or dehumanizing gestures, by an adult or student, that has the potential to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment or cause long term damage, cause discomfort or humiliation; or reasonably interfere with the individual’s school performance or participation is carried out repeatedly and is often characterized by an imbalance of power.”

That is a lot of info, but to keep it simple, we can help determine if a behavior is bullying by using this acronym, is it...?

R – Repeated

I – Imbalance of Power

P - Purposeful

What are the procedures for reporting an incident?

Employees are *required* to report incidents. Employees, students, parents, and visitors, however, are strongly encouraged to report suspected incidents to their principal and/or appropriate area/district administrator either verbally or in writing. A report may be made anonymously, using the anonymous reporting box located inside your school’s main entry, area or district site anonymous reporting box or by going to www.browardschools.com. Anonymous reports can also occur by calling the emergency hotline at 754-321-0911.

How do investigations occur?

The principal/designee or the appropriate area/district administrator will take specific steps to investigate all complaints of bullying. The principal/designee or the appropriate area/district administrator will initiate an investigation of all reports of bullying within 2 days and every investigation will be completed within 10 days after its initiation.

What are the consequences?

Consequences for confirmed bullying will include referrals, interventions, and/or disciplinary action as outlines by the Student Code of Conduct, the district’s Discipline Matrix, school board policies and any collective bargaining agreements.

If you are interested in getting help more informally, you have an option-

You can make a request for an informal consultation with school staff (e.g., school social worker, counselor, psychologist, Prevention Liaison, etc.).

What if I don't agree with the administrator's decision?

You have a right to appeal! If the resolution is not satisfactory to either you (the parent/guardian), the student, or the employee, you have the right to appeal within 5 days of the completion of investigation (See Student Code of Conduct, other board policies and collective bargaining agreements (employees) for the exact appeals process).

How will we learn more about the Anti-Bullying Policy and Initiatives?

Training is part of the process!

Training for students, parents, teachers, administrators, staff and volunteers is provided as an integral part of our schools to ensure that everyone knows the bullying policies and procedures, as well as how to intervene and help when issues of bullying arise.

We all deserve safe and respectful school environments!

Need to know more? See the Code of Student Conduct, Employee Handbook or our website, www.browardschools.com or abolishbullying.org