

BULLYING AND HARASSMENT

It is the policy of the Seminole County School Board that all of its students, school district employees and school district volunteers have an educational setting that is safe, secure and free from harassment and bullying of any kind. The School Board will not tolerate bullying and harassment of any type. Conduct that constitutes bullying and harassment, as defined herein, is prohibited. Any behavior that applies to the definition for bullying or harassment should be reported to the school and policy protocol will be followed.

Bullying means systematically and chronically inflicting physical hurt or psychological distress on one or more students, a school district employee or a school district volunteer, including: unwanted and repeated written, verbal, or physical behavior, this includes any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture that is severe or pervasive enough to create an intimidating, hostile or offensive educational environment; cause discomfort or humiliation; or unreasonably interferes with the individual's school performance or participation.

Harassment means any threatening, insulting or dehumanizing gesture, use of data or computer software, written, verbal or physical conduct directed against a student, school district employee or school district volunteer by a student, school district employee or school district volunteer. Bullying and Harassment includes cyber stalking which means to engage in a course of conduct to communicate, or to cause to be communicated, words, images, or language by or through the use of electronic mail or electronic communication, directed at a specific person, causing substantial emotional distress to that person and serving no legitimate purpose, as defined by Florida Statute 784.048(1)(d). Cases of cyber stalking will be reported to law enforcement.

The Seminole County School Board requires that students, school district employees, and school district volunteers conduct themselves as appropriate for their respective level of development, maturity and demonstrate capabilities with a proper regard for the rights and welfare of other students, school district employees and school district volunteers and as otherwise set forth in School Board policies.

Note: False accusation of an act of bullying or harassment and retaliation against a student for asserting or reporting bullying or harassment will receive disciplinary actions. In cases where the accusations are "unsubstantiated" the student's incident record will be flagged as such.

To review the entire Seminole County Bullying and Harassment Policy please visit the website: www.scps.k12.fl.us policy #5.421.

Source; Seminole County Code of Conduct, Bullying and Harassment pp. 5-6

<http://www.scps.k12.fl.us/Portals/53/assets/pdf/PolicyFiles/StudentConductDisciplineCode.pdf>