

Bullying Procedures

Bullying is a single act or a pattern of acts by one or more students directed at another student that exploits an imbalance of power. Cyberbullying means bullying that is done using any electronic communication device. For examples of bullying and for the complete definition please see FFI (REGULATION), FFI (LOCAL), and FFI (LEGAL). The District prohibits bullying, including cyberbullying.

Below is the process for reporting, investigating and documenting bullying.

Reporting Procedures

Any student who believes that he or she has experienced bullying or believes that another student has experienced bullying should immediately report the alleged acts to a teacher, school counselor, principal, or other District employee.

Log into Student Discipline System (SDS) and click on the **Bullying Tab** in a timely manner to complete the bullying incident report and conduct a thorough investigation before assigning the alleged bully an offense and action in SPBS. Please remember, the bullying reports are used for Texas Education Agency (TEA) purposes and these reports should be closed within ten District business days with accurate student information.

The Principal/Campus Behavior Coordinator should provide a (**Bullying Notification Allegation letter that is generated within SDS**) within three business days to the parent/legal guardian for any student that has been identified as participating in an alleged bullying incident.

When the bullying report has been completed the Principal/Campus Behavior Coordinator should provide a (**Bullying Determination letter that is generated within SDS**) to the parent/legal guardian for any student that has been found engaged or not engaged in an alleged bullying incident.

Also, please consider whether the victim used self-defense. A student who is a victim of bullying and who used reasonable self-defense in response to the bullying shall not be subject to disciplinary action.

Disciplinary Action

If the results of the investigation indicate that bullying occurred, the District shall promptly respond by taking appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with the District's Code of Conduct and may take corrective action to address the conduct.

Counseling Options

To reduce the number of bullying incidents, campus counselors are mandated to deliver professional development sessions to faculty and staff concerning the proper reporting of bullying. In addition, they are tasked with conducting guidance lessons for students encompassing individuals affected by bullying, bystanders, witnesses, and those accused of bullying. Counseling services will be made available to victims, bystanders, witnesses, and the accused, ranging from support provided by school counselors to referrals to Mental Health Services or one of the District's Youth and Family Centers.

Texas Education Code (TEC) §37.0832(c) (Up-to-date) Minimum Standards for bullying prevention

Require each LEA campus to establish a committee, which must include parents and secondary level students and may be incorporated into an existing committee that otherwise meets the requirements of these minimum standards, to address bullying by focusing on prevention efforts and health and wellness initiatives.

For information about the Student Discipline System or any of the forms associated with bullying, please contact the Student Engagement and Support at 972-925-5540; the web page for the Student Discipline System is

<http://sds.dallasisd.org/Login.cfm?Mode=Dolt>

For information on professional development and training regarding bullying contact JoAnn Jackson Powell, Director of Counseling Services, via email at jojackson@dallasisd.org or by phone at 972-925-8989.

To report bullying incidents and/or other illegal activity parents and students may contact the district's 24-hour hotline at 1(800) 530-1608.