

## TEXAS BULLYING LAW

Bullying [see FFI] occurs when a student or group of students engages in written or verbal expression, expression through electronic means, or physical conduct that occurs on school property, at a school-sponsored or school-related activity, or in a vehicle operated by the District and that:

1. Has the effect or will have the effect of physically harming a student, damaging a student's property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or of damage to the student's property; or
2. Is sufficiently severe, persistent, and pervasive enough that the action or threat creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student.

This conduct is considered bullying if it:

1. Exploits an imbalance of power between the student perpetrator and the student victim through written or verbal expression or physical conduct; and
2. Interferes with a student's education or substantially disrupts the operation of a school.

## SSISD BULLYING POLICY

The District **prohibits retaliation** by a student or District employee against any person who in good faith makes a report of bullying, serves as a witness, or participates in an investigation.

**Reports** of bullying shall be **made as soon as possible** after the alleged act or knowledge of the alleged act. A **failure to immediately** report may impair the District's ability to investigate and address the prohibited conduct.

To obtain assistance and intervention, 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, counselor, principal, or other District employee.

Any District **employee who suspects or receives notice** that a student or group of students has or may have experienced bullying **shall immediately notify** the principal or designee.

A report may be made orally or in writing. The **principal or designee shall reduce** any oral reports **to written form**.

The **principal or designee shall determine** whether the **allegations** in the report, if proven, would **constitute prohibited conduct** as defined by **policy FFH**, including *dating violence and harassment or discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, or disability*. If so, the District shall proceed under policy FFH. If the allegations could constitute both prohibited

conduct and bullying, the investigation under FFH shall include a determination on each type of conduct.

The **principal or designee shall conduct an appropriate investigation** based on the allegations in the report. The **principal or designee shall promptly take interim action** calculated to prevent bullying during the course of an investigation, if appropriate. Absent extenuating circumstances, the **investigation** should be **completed within ten District business days** from the date of the initial report alleging bullying.

The **principal or designee shall prepare a final, written report** of the investigation. The report shall include a determination of whether bullying occurred, and if so, whether the victim used reasonable self-defense. A **copy** of the **report shall be sent to the Superintendent or designee**.

**If an incident of bullying is confirmed, the principal or designee shall promptly notify the parents of the victim and of the student who engaged in bullying.**

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

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**.

The **principal or designee shall notify** the **victim**, the **student who engaged in bullying**, and any **students who witnessed** the bullying of available counseling options.

**If the investigation reveals improper conduct that did not rise to the level of prohibited conduct or bullying, the District may take action in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct** or any other appropriate corrective action.

A student who is dissatisfied with the outcome of the investigation may appeal through FNG(LOCAL), beginning at the appropriate level.