

BULLYING PROCEDURES FOR RRMS

Bullying Prevention

River Road Middle School, we will provide staff development training in bullying prevention and cultivate acceptance and understanding in all students and staff to build each school's capacity to maintain a safe and healthy learning environment.

Bullying, what is it?

Bullying occurs when a student or group of students engages in written or verbal expression, expression through electronic methods, or physical conduct against another student on school property, at a school-sponsored or -related activity, or in a district operated vehicle, and the behavior:

- *Results in harm to the student or the student's property,*
- *Places a student in reasonable fear of physical harm or of damage to the student's property, or*
- *Is so severe, persistent, and or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment.*

This conduct is considered bullying if it exploits an imbalance of power between the students perpetrator(s) and the student victim and if it interferes with a student's education or substantially disrupts the operation of the school.

Bullying is prohibited by the district and could include hazing, threats, taunting, teasing, confinement, assault, demands for money, destruction of property, theft of valued possessions, name-calling, rumor-spreading, or and ostracism. In some cases, bullying can occur through electronic methods, called "cyber bullying."

Reporting bullying:

River Road Middle School expects staff members to immediately report incidents of bullying to the principal or designee. Staff who witness such acts take immediate steps to intervene and stop bullying.

Ways to report bullying:

- *If a student believes that he or she has experienced bullying or has witnessed bullying of another student, it is important for the student or parent to notify a teacher, counselor, principal, or another school employee as soon as possible to obtain assistance and intervention. The administration will investigate any allegations of bullying and or other related misconduct.*
- *Students and parents can fill out an anonymous online bullying report on the RRISD website. Please give us as much detail as possible.*

- *Students and parents can fill out an anonymous report and place it in the locked bully boxes in the hallway of RRMS. Please give us as much detail as possible.*
- *Students can report bullying to teachers, counselors, paraprofessional, secretaries or any other employees who will then follow bullying prevention procedures.*
- *If a student or parent asks a staff member to stop incidents of bullying and they continue please contact the RRMS Principal.*
- *Students can come to the office and fill out a statement sheet, and an investigation will be initiated.*

Case of confirmed bullying:

Parents of both the perpetrator and the victim will be contacted in the event bullying is confirmed by a campus/district investigation and that the district will inform both sets of individuals, as well as any witnesses, of counseling options.

Counseling options:

Administrator, school counselor, the STAAR program, help finding an outside agency as needed.

Discipline:

If the results of an investigation indicate that bullying has occurred, the administration will take appropriate disciplinary action if an investigation indicates that bullying has occurred. Disciplinary or other action may be taken even if the conduct did not rise to the level of bullying.

The district will contact the parents of the victim and of the student who was found to have engaged in the bullying.

Any retaliation against a student who reports an incident of bullying is prohibited.

A student or parent who is dissatisfied with the outcome of an investigation may appeal through policy FNG(LOCAL).

This policy applies to students on school grounds, while traveling to and from school, or a school-sponsored activity.

What can kids/parents/teachers do about bullying? Helpful websites:

Conflict Resolution:

https://www.mindtools.com/pages/article/newLDR_81.htm

<https://www.helpguide.org/articles/relationships/conflict-resolution-skills.htm>

What can kids/parents/teachers can do to stop bullying:

<https://www.stopbullying.gov/kids/what-you-can-do/>

<http://www.apa.org/helpcenter/bullying.aspx>

If you know of additional resources that we should consider adding to this page, please send an e-mail to penny.rosson@rrisd.net