

SCHOOL BULLYING AND PREVENTION ACT

The Oklahoma Legislature's 2002 session included passage of the School Bullying and Prevention Act. Senate Bill 992 is codified as 70 Okla. Stat. os 24-100. This policy is to prevent harassment, intimidation, and social, physical, emotional, gender, or sexual orientation bullying in an effort to "create an environment free of unnecessary disruption" and requires districts to actively pursue programs for education regarding bullying behaviors.

The School Bullying Prevention Act defines the terms "harass, intimidate, or bully," as including, but not limited to, any gesture, written or verbal expression, or physical act that a reasonable person should recognize will:

1. Harm another student
2. Damage another student's property
3. Place another student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or damage the student's property; or
4. Insult or demean any student or any group of students in such a way as to disrupt or interfere with the school's educational mission or the educational mission of any student.

In 2008, the Act was amended to include bullying through electronic communication which includes any written, verbal, pictorial information communicated by telephone, cellular phone, or computer, popularly known as cyberbullying. Threatening behavior, harassment, intimidation, and bullying by students at school and by electronic communication, whether or not such communication originated at school or with school equipment, if the communication is specifically directed at students or school personnel and concerns harassment, intimidation, or bullying at school, or interferes with the educational process or causes a disruption to the school day, the student will be subject to disciplinary action that may include detention, ISI, or an out of school suspension.

70 O.S. § 24-100.3, S.L.O. §487.1

Student Reporting: Students are encouraged to inform school personnel if they are the victim of or a witness to acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying. A bully box is located in the cafeteria to report any acts of bullying.

Parental Reporting: Parents/guardians will be informed in writing of the District's program to stop intimidation, harassment, and bullying. An administrative response to a reported act of intimidation, harassment, or bullying may involve certain actions to be taken by parents. Parents will be informed of the program and the means for students to report bullying acts toward them or other students. They will also be told that to help prevent bullying at school they should encourage their children to:

1. Report bullying when it occurs
2. Take advantage of school opportunities to talk with counselors, administrators, teachers and RAP advisors
3. Inform the school immediately if they think their child is being bullied or is bullying other students;
4. Watch for symptoms that their child may be a victim of bullying and report those symptoms; and
5. Cooperate fully with school personnel in identifying and resolving incidents.

Further information on the School Bullying Prevention Act is available upon request in the office of the principal.