



PGCPS

What Adults Need to Know About Bullying

November 29, 2022

Office of Student Engagement and School Support



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- When asked the question “**During the past 12 months, have you ever been bullied on school property?**”
- 13.2 percent of students responded YES.
- 12.9 percent of males responded YES.
- 13.5 percent of females responded YES.
- When asked the question “**During the past 12 months, have you ever been electronically bullied?**”
- 10.1 percent of students responded YES.

Data taken from the 2018 Maryland Tobacco Youth Risk Behavior Survey



Bullying is defined as unwanted, demeaning behavior among students that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or is highly likely to be repeated over time. To be considered bullying, the behavior must be intentional and include (1) an imbalance of power and (2) repetition (bullying behaviors happen more than once or are highly likely to be repeated).



- Cyber-bullying is bullying that takes place over digital devices like cell phones, computers, tablets or other electronic communications. Cyber-bullying can occur through texting, apps, or online via social media, forums, or gaming where people can view, participate in, or share content. It includes sending, posting or sharing negative, harmful, false or hurtful content about another person/student. It can also include sharing personal or private information about someone else causing embarrassment or humiliation.

This information is taken from the newly revised AP 5143



PGCPS How Do I Report Suspected Bullying?

There are several ways that you can report bullying:

1. You may use the electronic BHI form that is attached to every school's website. Anyone can report suspected bullying (the targeted student, a teacher, a parent/guardian, a friend or a sibling).
2. You may report suspected bullying through a web link; enter **stopbullying.pgcps.org** into any internet browser
3. Visit the Apple App Store or Android Google Play Store using the search terms "**PGCPS iStopbullying**" to download to your mobile device.



PGCPS What Happens After a Report is Filed?

An investigation must be done by the school (within 48 hours) to determine the facts surrounding the incident and ultimately to determine if it was a case of bullying. The investigation can include but is not limited to:

- Meeting individually with the targeted student
- Meeting with the alleged offender
- Interviewing any potential witnesses
- All findings must be documented on the investigation form
- Notify parent/guardian of the targeted student and the offender of the findings of the investigation



PGCPS What Happens After a Report is Filed?

If the incident(s) are determined to be bullying, the school must notify the parent/guardian of the targeted student and the offender and provide them with a copy of the intervention plan developed for their child. School administration should hold several separate conferences with both the targeted student and the offender. Other interventions may include but are not limited to: parent/student conferences, behavioral contracts, continued support counseling for the targeted student, support counseling for the offender, social skills training, Social Emotional Learning lessons and support counseling for by-standers.



PGCPS What Prevention Methods Are in Place?

- Schools should ensure that all students and staff are made aware of how to access the reporting app.
- Review the SRRH specifically as it relates to bullying.
- Provide students when possible with information on the appropriate use of social media.
- Holding routine classroom meetings with students involving on-going discussions about safety.
- In January PGCPS will roll-out Second Step in all middle schools.
- We are currently offering a course on Biased-based Bullying through Welcoming Schools.



PGCPS What Prevention Methods Are in Place?

- All schools are encouraged to participate in various activities that support Bullying Prevention Month in October.
- All schools must develop and submit a school-wide bullying prevention plan.
- Use of the Bullying Circle video created for PGCPS.



- www.StopBullying.gov
- www.pacer.org
- www.violencepreventionworks.org
- www.cfchildren.org



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THANK YOU

QUESTIONS???