

Bullying Prevention

To access a copy of the White Bear Lake Area Schools Bullying Prevention Policy, visit:
http://www.whitebear.k12.mn.us/policy_docs/policy514.pdf

Key Messages About Bullying

- All students have the right to attend a school where individual differences are respected and celebrated and to learn in a safe, secure and supportive environment that is free of bullying.
- Unfortunately, bullying behaviors sometimes occur in the school setting.
- Three key criteria distinguish bullying from other misbehaviors:
 - It is intentionally hurtful and aggressive behavior
 - It is a pattern of behavior that is repetitive
 - It involves an imbalance of power or strength
- If your child is being bullied at school, or if you are aware of others who are the targets of such behavior, please report this information immediately to your child's teacher or an administrator. **Please refer to the online bullying report form on the North Campus website.**
- Direct bullying may be physical (hitting, kicking, shoving, spitting, choking) and/or verbal (name calling, threatening, taunting, malicious teasing).
- Indirect bullying is more subtle and less easy to detect and may include such behaviors as intentional social isolation, exclusion, lies, false rumors, and/or reputation slandering.
- Increasing numbers of students are using technology to tease, intimidate, defame, threaten, terrorize and/or otherwise cause harm to a student, group, school personnel, or visitors by communicating in a variety of forms to include, but not limited to: email messages, instant messages, text messages, digital pictures or images, website postings (including blogs or other means).
- Such acts constitute bullying regardless of whether they are committed on or off school district property and/or with/without school resources.
- Bullying interferes directly with a student's ability to learn. Students who are bullied may find it difficult to concentrate and sometimes experience a decline in grades and/or a diminished sense of self esteem and self-confidence.

- Responsibility for an effective bullying prevention program rests on the total school community including parents, administrators, teachers, students, and additional staff (custodians, clerical, administrative assistants, bus drivers, playground supervisors, lunchroom personnel, coaches, etc.).
- Our District's goal is to prevent bullying and to take action to investigate, respond to, remediate, and when appropriate, discipline acts of bullying which have not been successfully prevented.
- Our policy applies not only to students who directly engage in the act of bullying, but also to students who, by their indirect behavior, condone or support another student's act of bullying.
- Parents play a critical role in the prevention of bullying behaviors; therefore, we ask for your help to continue our efforts to make our schools physically and emotionally safe for all students.
- To be truly successful, we must have a committed partnership between families and schools. We appreciate your support in addressing this important issue.