



What is the difference between Bullying and Harassment?

- **Harassment** – A repeated, unwanted intentional behavior that is found threatening or disturbing.
- **Bullying** – overt, unwanted, repeated acts or gestures, including verbal or written communications or images transmitted in any manner (including digitally or electronically), physical acts committed, aggression, or any other behaviors, that are committed by a student or group of students against another student with the intent to harass, ridicule, humiliate, intimidate, or harm the targeted student and create for the targeted student an objectively hostile school environment that:
 - Places the targeted student in reasonable fear of harm to the targeted student's person or property;
 - Has a substantially detrimental effect on the targeted student's physical or mental health;
 - Has the effect of substantially interfering with the targeted student's academic performance; or
 - Has the effect of substantially interfering with the targeted student's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, and privileges provided by the school.
- **Peer conflict, which is defined as a confrontation that has participation by all parties involved, is not an example of bullying.**

*** REPORT BULLYING ***
To a Staff Member

STOP

Help Us Bullying!

To learn how you can help, visit the following websites:

Stop Bullying Now www.stopbullyingnow.com

Safe Child Program – Bullies www.safechild.org/bullies.htm#TAKEASTAND

Bully B-Ware www.bullybeware.com

Bullying.Org www.bullying.org

The following books may also be helpful:

For Adults

Before it's Too Late: Why Some Kids Get into Trouble and What Parents Can do About It by S. Samenow, Random House

Safe Passage: Making it Through Adolescence In a Risky Society by Joy G. Dryfoos, Oxford

Bullying at School: What We Know and What We Can Do by Dan Olweus, Oxford

Schools Where Everyone Belongs by Stan Davis, Research Press

Bullying in American Schools by Anne Garrett, McFarland & Co.

Weakfish by Michael Dorn

For Students

Don't Sweat the Small Stuff For Teens by Richard Carlson, Hyperion

A Teen's Game Plan For Life by Lou Holtz, Sorin Books

Perry Meridian Middle School Anti-Bullying Brochure

What is Bullying?

Bullying occurs when one or more individuals *repeatedly* intentionally hurts, threatens, intimidates, inappropriately touches, or attempts to devalue another person. It is difficult for the person being targeted to avoid the person bullying and to defend him or herself. In many instances the bullying behavior continues and has the potential to escalate into violence. Please refer to our student handbook for additional information. Some examples of bullying include:

- o Punching, shoving, tripping, kicking, slapping, hiding others personal property, and other physical acts
- o Spreading rumors
- o Exclusion
- o Teasing
- o “Ganging up” on others
- o Making inappropriate sexual comments and gestures

Bullying can also happen electronically:

- o Sending a mean or inappropriate text or e-mail
- o Posting inappropriate pictures /messages about others
- o Using someone else’s username to spread rumors or lies
- o Forwarding photos, videos and texts that are inappropriate

When you stand up for yourself and tell someone – it is NOT snitching, it’s self preservation!

Stop bullying by reporting it when it happens. Students are encouraged to speak with any staff member about incidents or an anonymous report can be made at

www.reportabully.com

Email counselors or advisors
Use the bully box to outside of the guidance office in the main hall.

ANYONE MAKING A FALSE REPORT OF BULLYING WILL RECEIVE DISCIPLINARY ACTION RANGING FROM SUSPENSION TO EXPULSION FROM SCHOOL.

Perry Township School District does not condone bullying. Action will be taken if bullying or harassment occurs; this may include counseling, parental involvement, reporting to authorities, suspension and possible expulsion. Our involvement may include appropriate interventions, restoration of a positive climate, and support for victims and others impacted by the violation.

- NOTE: Depending on the severity of the behavior, a student may be arrested and charged with a criminal offense.

STUDENT BEHAVIORS



Everyone has a role. In many cases, you can choose your role. Which one are you?

The Bully (Perpetrator): One who engages in behaviors that are intended to devalue someone, assert power, or hurt another either physically or emotionally.

The Target: One who is a target of bullying behavior. You may feel anger, fear, and often times, isolation. This is not a role of choice.

The Ally: One who engages in an act of support on behalf of someone who is being targeted. Ally behavior can be demonstrated through words, emotional support or direct action. If you are not an ally, you can choose to become one.

The Bystander: Anyone who observes an act of bullying and doesn't take any action to stop the behavior or to stand up as support to the targeted victim.
YOU ARE INDIRECTLY SUPPORTING THE BULLYING AND HARASSING BEHAVIOR.

*** REPORT BULLYING *
To a Staff Member**

What can YOU do?

Here are some suggestions for when you find yourself in one of these roles.

The Bully (Perpetrator): Person or persons who engages in bullying or demeaning behavior

- This is a choice
- Put yourself in the other person's shoes
- Think of the consequences
- Find a positive way to express yourself

The Target

- GET HELP! Speak with a counselor, social worker, security officer, teacher, or administrator. We cannot help if we are not aware of the problem!
- Stay in a group
- If it feels safe, stand up to the person who is bullying you – tell them to “STOP”
- Use humor to “blow off” the bullying behavior
- Use the bullying report form

The Ally

- You are making a difference
- Stand up for the Target
- Give the Target emotional support
- Report the bullying to an adult
- Use the bullying report form

The Bystander

- This is a choice
- Walk away from the situation
- Report the situation to an adult
- Use the bullying report form (use it anonymously if you don't want to get involved)
- Become an ally!

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