Cyberbullying

What is Cyberbullying?

* Cyberbullying is bullying that takes place using electronic technology. Electronic technology includes devices and equipment such as cell phones, computers, and tablets as well as communication tools including social media sites, text messages, chat, and websites.

* Examples of Cyberbullying include mean text messages or emails, rumors sent by email or posted on social networking sites, and embarrassing pictures, videos, or fake profiles.

Cyberbullying

- **Why Cyberbullying is Different**
- **Effects of Cyberbullying**
- **Frequency of Cyberbullying**

Why Cyberbullying is Different

Students who are being cyberbullied are often bullied in person as well through technology. Additionally, students who are cyberbullied have a harder time getting away from the behavior.

- *Cyberbullying can happen 24 hours a day, 7days a week, and reach a kid even when he or she is alone. It can happen any time of the day or night.

- *Cyberbullying messages and images can be posted anonymously and distributed quickly to a very wide audience. It can be difficult and sometimes impossible to trace the source.

- *Deleting inappropriate or harassing messages, texts, and pictures is extremely difficult after they have been posted or sent.

Effects of Cyberbullying

Cell phones and computers themselves are not to blame for cyberbullying. Social media sites can be used for positive activities, like connecting kids with friends and family, helping students with school , and for entertainment.But these tools can also be used to hurt other people. Whether done in person or through technology, the effects of bullying are similar.

Students who are cyberbullied are more likely to:
* *Use alcohol and drugs
* *Skip School
* *Experience in-person bullying
* *Be unwilling to attend school
* *Receive poor grades
* *Have lower self –esteem
* *Have more health problems

Frequency of Cyberbullying

The 2013-2014 <u>School Crime Supplement</u> (National Center for Education Statistics and Bureau of Justice Statistics) indicates that 7% of students in grades 6-12 experienced cyberbullying.

The 2013 <u>Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance Survey</u> finds that 15% of high school students (Grades 9-12) were electronically bullied in the past year.

- Research on cyberbullying is growing. However , because technology use changes rapidly, it is difficult to design surveys that accurately capture trends.

Prevent Cyberbullying

Teachers and students can prevent cyberbullying. Together, they can explore safe ways to use technology.

- *Educating and Training
- *Be Aware of What Your Students are Doing Online
- *Review the Rules about Technology Use

Education and Training

Policy JCBAA –Anti-Bullying for Students

All training regarding the anti-bullying policy and its procedures must be age and content appropriate.

In support of this policy, the Board of Trustees promotes preventative educational measures to create greater awareness of bullying and harassing behavior. This policy and its accompanying procedures shall be printed in the code of conduct handbook, each school's employee handbook, and in the policy manual. The superintendent or designee shall provide appropriate training to all students and District employees related to the implementation of this policy and procedures.

Beware of What Your Students are Doing Online

Talk with your students about cyberbullying and other online issues regularly.

- *Know the sites your students visit and their online activities. Ask what sites they are going on, and what device they're doing it with.
- *Have a sense of what they do online and in texts. Learn about the sites they like. Try out the devices they use.
- *Remind them that social media sites are monitored and viewed by many people who may report their activity.
- *Encourage your students to tell you immediately if they, or someone they know, is being cyberbullied. Explain that you will not take away their computers or cell phones if they confide in you about a problem they are having.

Rules about Technology Use

*Review District rules about appropriate use of computers, cell phones, and other technology. For example, be clear about what sites they can visit and what they are permitted to do when they're online. Show them how to be safe online.

*Help them be smart about what they post or say. Tell them not to share anything that could hurt or embarrass themselves or others. Once something is posted, it is out of their control whether someone else will forward it.

*Encourage students to think about who they want to see the information and pictures they post online. Should complete strangers see it? Real friends only? Friends of friends? Think about how people who aren't friends could use it.

*Remind students to keep their passwords safe and not share them with friends. Sharing passwords can compromise their online identities and activities.

JPS Anti-Bullying Policy

Cyberbullying in and out of the Classroom.

Policy JCBAA –Anti-Bullying

Cyberbullying – the use of information and communication technologies such as e-mail, cell phone text messages, instant messaging, defamatory personal websites, computers, other electronic devices, and defamatory online personal polling websites, to support deliberate, repeated, and hostile behavior by an individual or group that is intended to harm, humiliate, tease, intimidate, or harass others.

Reporting:
The District requires all its employees, and strongly encourages anyone else who has witnessed or has reliable information that a student or District employee has been subject to any act of bullying or harassing behavior, to report the incident to the appropriate school official.

The District has enacted procedures for reporting, investigating, and addressing bullying and harassing behaviors. Please review the District Code of Conduct Handbook for detailed procedures.

Disciplinary Actions

Students who engage in bullying or harassing behaviors or retaliation are subject to disciplinary action as outlined in the District Code of Conduct Handbook. The discipline policies and procedures recognizes the fundamental right of every student to take "reasonable actions" as necessary to defend himself or herself from an attack by another student who has evidenced menacing or threatening behavior through bullying or harassing.

Furthermore, the Jackson Public School District defines "reasonable action" as promptly reporting the behavior to a teacher, principal, counselor, or other school employee when subjected to bullying or harassing behavior.

District employees who engage in bullying or harassing behaviors or retaliation are subject to disciplinary actions up to and including termination.

JPS POLICY JCBAA
ANTI-BULLYING FOR STUDENTS

JCBAA

ANTI-BULLYING POLICY FOR STUDENTS

* The Board of Trustees of the Jackson Public School District intends to provide all students with an equitable opportunity to learn. The Board of Trustees has a significant interest in providing a safe, orderly, and respectful school environment that is conducive to student learning.
* It shall be against District policy for any student to engage in bullying or harassing behavior that includes, but is not limited to, bullying or harassing behavior that is based on race, religion, sex, creed or color, national origin, physical appearance, gender identity, ancestry, academic status, behavior, sexual orientation, mental, physical, developmental, or sensory disability, or by association with a person who has or is perceived to have one or more of these characteristics, or other actual or perceived differentiating characteristics. Such behavior will not be condoned by the District. Bullying or harassing behavior is any pattern of gestures or written, electronic or verbal communications, or any physical act or any threatening communication, that takes place on District property, at any District-sponsored function, or on a school bus or school vehicle that:
* (1) Places a student or District employee in actual and reasonable fear of harm to his or her person or damage to his or her property; or
* (2) Creates or is certain to create a hostile environment by substantially interfering with or impairing a student's educational performance, opportunities, or benefits or an employee's work performance, opportunities, or benefits. A hostile environment means that the victim subjectively views the conduct as bullying or harassing behavior and the conduct is objectively severe or pervasive enough that a reasonable person would agree that it is bullying or harassing behavior.
* Bullying or harassing behavior that takes place off District property will not be condoned or tolerated by the District when such conduct, in the determination of the school superintendent or principal, renders the offending person's presence in the classroom a disruption to the educational environment of the school, or a detriment to the best interest and welfare of the pupils and teacher of such class as a whole.
* Some examples of bullying include, but are not limited to, the following:
* A. Physical – hitting, kicking, spitting, pushing, pulling, taking and/or damaging personal belongings or extorting money, blocking or impeding student and employee movement, or unwelcome physical contact. B. Verbal – taunting, malicious teasing, insulting, name calling, making threats, or telephone calls.

JCBAA

* C. Psychological – spreading rumors, manipulating social relationships, coercion, or engaging in social exclusion/shunning, extortion, or intimidation. D. Cyberbullying – the use of information and communication technologies such as e-mail, cell phone text messages, instant messaging, defamatory personal websites, computers, other electronic devices, and defamatory online personal polling websites, to support deliberate, repeated, and hostile behavior by an individual or group that is intended to harm, humiliate, tease, intimidate, or harass others.
* The District will make every reasonable effort to ensure that no student or District employee is subjected to bullying or harassment by other persons. Retaliation: It shall be against District policy for any student or District employee to engage in any act of intimidation, reprisal or retaliation against a victim, witness or a person with reliable information about an act of bullying or harassing behavior. As such, the District shall make every reasonable effort to ensure that no student or District employee engages in any act of intimidation, reprisal or retaliation against a victim, witness or a person with reliable information about an act of bullying or harassing behavior. No retaliation against the victim, witness, or any person with reliable information about an act of bullying or harassing behavior is permitted. Reporting: The District requires all its employees, and strongly encourages anyone else who has witnessed or has reliable information that a student or District employee has been subject to any act of bullying or harassing behavior, to report the incident to the appropriate school official.
* The District has enacted procedures for reporting, investigating, and addressing bullying and harassing behaviors. Education and Training: In support of this policy, the Board of Trustees promotes preventative and intervention educational measures to create greater awareness of bullying and harassing behavior. This policy and its accompanying procedures shall be printed in the District Code of Conduct Handbook, each school's employee handbook, and in the policy manual. The superintendent or designee shall provide appropriate training to all students and District employees related to the implementation of this policy and procedures. All training regarding this policy and its procedures will be age and content appropriate. Disciplinary Actions: Students who engage in bullying or harassing behaviors or retaliation are subject to disciplinary action as outlined in the District Code of Conduct Handbook. The discipline policies and procedures must recognize the fundamental right of every student to take "reasonable actions" as may be necessary to defend himself or herself from an attack by another student who has evidenced menacing or threatening behavior through bullying or harassing. Furthermore, the Jackson Public School District defines "reasonable action" as promptly reporting the behavior to a teacher, principal, counselor, or other school employee when subjected to bullying or harassing behavior. District employees who engage in bullying or harassing behaviors or retaliation are subject to disciplinary actions up to and including termination.
* This policy and procedures shall be reviewed annually.
* SOURCE: National School Boards Association   Mississippi School Boards Association
* LEGAL REF.: Senate Bill 2015 Miss. Code Ann. §37-7-301(e); §37-11-20; and §§37-11-67 and 37-11-69
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Contact Information

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References: stopbullying.gov
and JPS Board Policy