

Hanover Public Schools USD 223

Bullying Prevention Plan

In an effort to ensure a school environment where the children of our community may receive an education free from the effects of bullying and harassment, and in compliance with the mandates of anti-bullying legislation enacted by the Kansas Legislature.

Any act of bullying by either an individual student or group of students is prohibited on school property, in a school vehicle or at school-sponsored functions. Cyber bullying is specifically prohibited in any form.

What is bullying?

Bullying is defined as any intentional gesture or any written, verbal, electronic, or physical act or threat that is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment for a student or staff member that a reasonable person, under the circumstances, should know would have the effect of:

- Harming a student or staff member, whether physically or mentally
- Damaging a student or staff member's property
- Placing a student or staff member in reasonable fear of harm to the student or staff member; or
- Placing a student or staff member in reasonable fear of damage to their property

Bullying behaviors may include but are not limited to:

- Spreading rumors
- Teasing
- Ostracizing/socially isolating
- Threatening
- Gesturing
- Setting up/facilitating bullying behavior by others
- Physically harming
- Verbally taunting
- Destroying/damaging property

Reporting Bullying Behaviors

Students may report any bullying incident to any adult employee of Hanover Public Schools. Once they have received a report from a student, it is the responsibility of the employee to promptly contact the principal of the building and inform him/ her of the complaint. Once a report has been made, it is the responsibility of the building principal or his/her designee to investigate the incident, and act according to the policies of Hanover Public Schools. Information to be reported should include:

- Name and age/grade level of the individual who has allegedly been a victim of bullying or harassment
- Name and age/grade level of the individual who has allegedly committed the bullying or harassment
- Names of any witnesses to the incidents
- Date, time and location of where the incident took place
- Description of the events observed

False Reporting

Falsely reporting bullying is another form of bullying and will be treated accordingly.

Consequences

Hanover Public Schools will maintain a “Zero-Tolerance” policy regarding confirmed bullying incidents. First offense will receive one day in-school-suspension, and any following offenses thereafter will be handled on an individual basis by the administration.

Confidentiality

Hanover Public Schools ensures the confidentiality of any information provided relating to a reported bullying incident and that such information is exempted from disclosure under the open records act.

Training

Hanover Public Schools takes all forms of bullying and/or harassment seriously. To that end, training will be required for all administrative, teaching and classified staff employed by our school. Hanover Public Schools will develop a school-wide bullying prevention program that will include annual information and any applicable training regarding this policy.