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The Thomaston School District

Stop



THE



BULLYING



OUR GOAL

An important goal of the Thomaston School District is to create a safe learning environment within safe schools. In order to accomplish this task, it is important for all students, staff and parents to be active participants in the understanding of and prevention of bullying in our schools.

WHAT IS BULLYING?



Bullying can be defined as repeated and systemic harassment and attacks on others. Bullying can be perpetrated by individuals or groups. Bullying takes many forms, and can include many different behaviors such as:

- ◆ Physical violence and attacks
- ◆ Verbal taunts, name-calling and put-downs
- ◆ Threats and intimidation
- ◆ Extortion or stealing money and possessions
- ◆ Exclusion from the peer group

PUBLIC ACT 02-119

The Connecticut General Assembly passed Public Act 02-119—the Anti-bullying Act. By February 1, 2003, every school system in the state had to adopt a policy consistent with this statute. The Thomaston District policy on bullying includes a formal complaint and intervention process:

- ◆ Students or parents/guardians may file written complaints that are reasonably specific (time, place, conduct involved, number of incidents);
- ◆ Students may make reasonably specific complaints as to actions concerning the suspicion of bullying (time, place, conduct alleged, target, witnesses);
- ◆ A teacher, administrator, or other professional employee who receives an informal complaint shall promptly reduce the complaint to writing. Such report will be forwarded to the building principal for review and action;
- ◆ All complaints will be investigated promptly with a written report prepared once the investigation is complete;
- ◆ The administrator will contact the parents of students involved to share information;
- ◆ Teachers and other professional staff members are encouraged to address the issue of bullying in other interactions with students;
- ◆ Students are subject to a full range of disciplinary consequences.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- 🌈 Keep a written record of all bullying incidents
- 🌈 Meet with a classroom teacher and administrator to discuss your concerns
- 🌈 Speak to a guidance counselor or school-based mental health professional if needed
- 🌈 Set up a follow-up appointment to discuss progress

PREVENTION

Bullying prevention is everyone's responsibility—we all play a significant role:

Students: think before you act.

Appropriate behavior and decision-making need to guide your actions through the school day.

Parents: Listen to your children and never hesitate to call the school to ask for help.

Administrators: Execute the Anti-Bullying Policy and resolve problems that may exist.

Teachers and Staff: Observe potential bullying situations and intervene.