



Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission

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Andrea Romano, Director of Education

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

The New Jersey legislature has passed an act concerning bullying behavior in schools. Consistent with this law, we are asking that parents/guardians immediately inform school personnel (e.g., your child's teacher, program administrator) of suspected bullying behavior directed against your child or another child. This law defines "bullying" as any repeated overt acts by a student or group of students directed against another student with the intent to ridicule, humiliate, harass or intimidate the other student while on school grounds (including on school busses) or at school sponsored activities. Inclusive of this new law is text messaging. If a student texts anything that can be construed as harassment, intimidation and/or bullying, your son/daughter may be reported to school administration and/or local law enforcement.

You may formally notify the school personnel in writing or feel free to call your School Administrator. I have attached the form that can be used and downloaded on www.hcesc.com. It is also important for you to know that, consistent with this law, your child may anonymously report acts of bullying to our teachers, other educational personnel (e.g., school social worker) and /or program administrator.

When possible, please encourage your son/daughter to make such reports if they feel they have been bullied or if they have witnessed another student being bullied. Bullying behavior is prohibited by our student discipline policy/codes of conduct and may lead to disciplinary action, including suspension from school (or in more severe cases, expulsion by your child's school district).

The new proposed law requires us to notify parents/guardians of students who commit any verified acts of bullying and the parents/guardians of students against whom such acts were directed. We are aware that incidents of bullying are rarely committed in view of supervising adults. Victims are most vulnerable in situations beyond the eyes of staff, such as the playground, buses, restrooms, and bus stops. The most likely adult to be informed by a victim is the parent. Parents are often reluctant to inform the school due to the student's fear of retaliation. Without parent input, the school personnel will be uninformed and unable to intervene to stop this behavior. It is vital that school staff and parents continue to work together to protect the safe environment of our school programs.

Sincerely,

Andrea Romano
Director of Education

HCESC Bullying Prevention and Intervention School Plan

BULLYING REPORT FORM

Recently you were involved in an alleged bullying incident. In order for HCESC to help prevent such incidents, it is important for you to tell us in your own words, what happened. Please complete as much information as possible. If you are not sure of an answer, leave it blank. You can give this form to your teacher or directly to an administrator.

Date of Incident: _____ Time of day _____
Reported by: _____ Grade: _____
Bully Involved: _____
Student who was bullied: _____

Location that bullying took place: Where did this happen?

(example, hallway, classroom, bathroom, bus, outside, over the internet, etc.)

What **time** did the bullying take place: _____
(example, before school, during class, lunch hour, after school, night time, etc.)

What **type** of bullying took place – please check the most appropriate box:

Physical _____
(example, pushing, shoving, spitting, hitting)

Verbal _____
(example, name calling, teasing, making fun of, putting down, threats, etc.)

Social _____
(example, rumors, racial slurs, gossip, isolation, cell phone-text, online, other)

Please list any witnesses to what took place:

Please describe what took place and how this incident is a repeated or persistent action by the bully.

What could you have done differently to solve the problem?