

WATERTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

BULLYING PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION

The Watertown Board of Education is committed to creating and maintaining an educational environment that is physically, emotionally and intellectually safe and thus free from bullying, teen dating violence, harassment and discrimination. “**Bullying**” means the repeated use by one or more students of a written, oral or electronic communication, such as cyberbullying, directed at or referring to another student attending school in the same school district, or a physical act or gesture by one or more students repeatedly directed at another student attending school in the same school district, that:

- (1) causes physical or emotional harm to such student or damage to such student’s property;
- (2) places such student in reasonable fear of harm to himself or herself, or of damage to his or her property;
- (3) creates a hostile environment at school for such student;
- (4) infringes on the rights of such student at school; or
- (5) substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

Bullying includes, but is not limited to, a written, verbal or electronic communication or physical act or gesture based on any actual or perceived differentiating characteristics, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, socioeconomic status, academic status, physical appearance, or mental, physical, developmental or sensory disability, or by association with an individual or group who has or is perceived to have one or more of such characteristics.

"**Cyberbullying**" means any act of bullying through the use of the Internet, interactive and digital technologies, cellular mobile telephone or other mobile electronic devices or any electronic communications. “**Teen Dating Violence**” means any act of physical, emotional or sexual abuse, including stalking, harassing and threatening, that occurs between two students who are currently in or who have recently been in a dating relationship.

Prohibition Against Bullying, Teen Dating Violence and Retaliation

The Board expressly prohibits any form of bullying behavior and teen dating violence on school grounds; at a school-sponsored or school-related activity, function or program whether on or off school grounds; at a school bus stop; on a school bus or other vehicle owned, leased or used by a local or regional board of education; or through the use of an electronic device or an electronic mobile device owned, leased or used by Board of Education. The Board also prohibits any form of bullying behavior outside of the school setting if such bullying (i) creates a hostile environment at school for the student against whom such bullying was directed, (ii) infringes on the rights of the student against whom such bullying was directed at school, or (iii) substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school. In addition to prohibiting student acts that constitute bullying, the Board also prohibits discrimination and/or retaliation against an individual who reports or assists in the investigation of an act of bullying.

Reporting

Individuals may report acts of bullying by communicating directly with school personnel or by submitting the form below to school personnel. Students may also use the form to anonymously report acts of bullying.

Indicate if there are witnesses who can provide more information regarding your report. If the witnesses are not school district staff or students, please provide contact information.

Name Address Telephone Number

Have there been previous incidents (circle one)? Yes No

If "yes", please describe the behavior of concern, or the violence that occurred; include the approximate date(s) and the location(s):

Were these incidents reported to school employees (circle one) Yes No If "Yes", to whom was it reported and when?

Was the report verbal or written?

Proposed Solution: Indicate your opinion on how this problem might be resolved in the school setting. Be as specific as possible.

I certify that the above information and events are accurately depicted to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Reporter Date Submitted Received By Date Received