

Regulation JCDA-R(4): Student Code of Conduct - Harassment, Intimidation, Threats (Verbal, Written or Electronic), And Bullying Behavior

Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 08/25/2010 | **Last Revised Date:** 08/10/2010 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 12/18/2019

Student Code of Conduct - Harassment, Intimidation, Threats (Verbal, Written or Electronic), And Bullying Behavior

The Griffin-Spalding County School System is committed to creating a safe, positive environment for all of our students, staff, parents, stakeholders, and community partners. We believe that everyone is entitled to a safe, secure, and orderly environment in which to learn and work.

I. DEFINITIONS:

1. **Harassment** - The intentional, substantial, and unreasonable verbal, physical or written contact that is initiated, maintained, or repeated.
2. **Bullying** - Bullying is defined as an act which occurs on school property, on school vehicles, at locations where a school bus picks up or drops off students, or at school related functions or activities, or by use of data software that is capable of being accessed through a computer, computer systems, computer network, or other electronic technology of the Griffin-Spalding County School System, that is a willful attempt or threat to inflict injury on another person, when accompanied by an apparent present ability to do so; any intentional display of force such as would give the victim reason to fear or expect immediate bodily harm; or Any intentional written, verbal, or physical act, which a reasonable person would perceive as being intended to threaten, harass, or intimidate, that:
 - A. Causes another person substantial physical harm or visible bodily harm as defined in Code Section 16-5-23.1; (B) Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education; (C) Is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment; or Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school. (O.C.G.A. 20-2-751.4) In the case of communications which are made from one student to another and that occur away from a school campus, a school vehicle, a school bus stop or a school related function or activity, the Griffin-Spalding County School System shall have the right to investigate and if appropriate, take action to discipline the offending student and protect the student that is subjected to the bullying behavior if the actions of the offending student present a danger to the safe and orderly learning environment to the student and/or staff of a school in the Griffin-Spalding County School System.

II. Procedures for Reporting and Prohibiting Bullying in the Griffin-Spalding County School System

Griffin-Spalding County Schools Regulations Governing Student Conduct and Discipline Rule 14. Bullying. Students shall: (1) not willfully attempt to threaten to inflict injury on another person, when accompanied by an apparent present ability to do so; or (2) intentionally display force such as would give the victim reason to fear or expect immediate bodily harm. Upon finding by a disciplinary hearing officer, panel, or tribunal of school officials that a student in grades 6-12 has committed the offense of bullying for the third time in a school year, such student shall be assigned to an alternative school. (O.C.G.A. 20-02-0751.4(b))

1. No student shall engage in harassment, intimidation, or abuse of or toward any other student(s), District employees or other adults for any reason. This prohibition includes but is not limited to, harassment, intimidation or abuse of students or others based on actual or perceived race, creed, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or a physical characteristic.
2. Students and parents shall be notified of the prohibition against bullying and the consequences for violating this prohibition in the student and parent handbook and by posting such information at each school.
3. Any teacher or other school employee who has reliable information that would lead a reasonable person to suspect that someone is a target of bullying shall immediately report it to the school principal.
4. After receiving an alleged report of bullying, the school administration shall promptly investigate the report in a timely manner and determine whether bullying has occurred.

5. Age-appropriate range of consequences for bullying is included in the discipline matrix. These consequences include at minimum and without limitation, disciplinary action or counseling as appropriate.
 6. Consequences for students in grades six through twelve shall require that a finding by the disciplinary hearing officer, panel, or tribunal of school officials that a student has committed the offense of bullying for the third time in a school year, such student shall be assigned to an alternative school.
 7. A student can be reassigned to another school for the purpose of separating such student from his or her bullying victim.
 8. Teachers or other school employee, student, parent, guardian, or other person who has control or charge of a student, may report or provide information on bullying activity to the School Principal or his or her designee.
 9. After a finding by a school administrator that a student has committed an offense of bullying or is a victim of bullying, the school administrator will notify the parent, guardian or other person who has control or charge of such student that this offense of bullying has occurred and discuss disciplinary action or counseling as appropriate.
 10. The Griffin-Spalding County School System prohibits any form of retaliation following a report of bullying.
 11. The Griffin-Spalding County School System participates in anti-bullying programs and activities.
-