

## **Bristol Township School District Bullying Information and Reporting**

### **Definitions:**

**Bullying** means an intentional electronic, written, verbal or physical act or series of acts directed at another student or students, which occurs in a school setting and/or outside a school setting, that is severe, persistent or pervasive, not a single incident, that creates an atypical imbalance of power, and has the effect of doing any of the following:

1. Substantial interference with a student's education.
  - Increase in student absenteeism over a short period of time that is not directly related to a home or medical event
  - Atypical refusal to participate in events/activities that the child would regularly participate in
  - Sudden drop in grades that cannot otherwise be explained.
  - Change in behavior not typical of the child's past performance.
2. Creation of a threatening environment.
  - Student refuses to attend a class/group/activity at school that the child would otherwise be a participant.
3. Substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school.
  - The attention of staff to address severe, persistent or pervasive behaviors results in frequent interruptions of classroom or building routines.
  - Teachers are forced to reteach lessons on a frequent basis due to classroom interruptions by students who display behaviors as defined above.

**Bullying**, as defined by school policy, includes cyberbullying.

**School setting** means in the school, on school grounds, in school vehicles, at a designated bus stop or at any activity sponsored, supervised or sanctioned by the school.

**What to do in the event that you or your child suspects that they are being bullied:**

- 1) Notify your building principal, assistant principal, or counselor of the suspected case of bullying and provide them with the following information:
  - a. Physical evidence of the issue being reported (emails, social media posts, pictures, text messages, voicemails, etc.)
  - b. Where was the student at the time of the incident?
  - c. What time did the incident take place?
  - d. Who was involved in the incident?
  - e. Were there any additional witnesses to the incident?
  - f. What did the reporting student hear?
  - g. What did the reporting student see?
  - h. Is this the first time that there has been a situation between the students involved? If not,
    - i. When has this occurred in the past?
    - ii. Where has it occurred?
    - iii. Who was the incident reported to?
    - iv. What was said in the past incident(s)?
    - v. What was seen in the past Incident(s)?
  - i. What is the current emotional and physical status of the reporting student?

**What to expect once a report is deemed an act of bullying:**

- The reporting student will be interviewed by the principal or assistant principal within one school day from the date of the report.
- If the student presents with emotional distress, the student will be seen by the school counselor, social worker, or psychologist.
- If the student identifies physical ailments, the student will be seen by the school nurse.
- Within 15 days of the reported event, the principal or assistant principal will notify the parent of their findings. The principal will notify the parent of the supports and/or services that are available to the victim. Pursuant to the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, the principal or assistant principal will **not** report on the disciplinary action imposed on other students involved in the matter.