

BULLYING AND CYBER BULLYING

Bullying

Bullying is strictly prohibited in the school buildings, on the property of the Patchogue-Medford School District, and on buses owned or contracted for by the Patchogue-Medford School District. It is prohibited, as well, at all events, athletic contests, and activities sponsored by the Patchogue-Medford School District which occur both on and off of Patchogue-Medford School District premises.

For the purposes of this policy, the term “bullying” is defined as “a variety of negative acts carried out repeatedly over time involving a real or perceived imbalance of power, with a more powerful person or group attacking those who are less powerful.” Bullying can take three (3) forms:

1. physical (including, but not limited to, hitting, kicking, spitting, pushing, and taking physical belongings).
2. verbal (including, but not limited to, taunting, malicious teasing, name calling, and making threats).
3. psychological (including, but not limited to, spreading rumors, manipulating social relationships, and engaging in social exclusion, extortion, and intimidation).

Cyber Bullying

Cyber bullying is strictly prohibited. As with other forms of bullying, cyber bullying is an attempt to exercise power and commit negative acts over time involving a real or perceived imbalance of power. Opportunities for cyber bullying exist both on and off of the premises of Patchogue-Medford Schools and may involve the use of, but not limited to, the Patchogue-Medford computer system, electronic mail system, or personal computers, cell phones, digital cameras. Cyber bullying using any of these methods shall be covered by this policy.

Cyber bullying included, but is not limited to, the following misuses of technology: harassing, teasing, intimidating, threatening, or terrorizing another student or employee by way of any technological device or tool, such as sending or posting inappropriate or derogatory electronic mail messages, instant messages, text messages, digital pictures or images, or website postings (including blog entries).

Cyber bullying has the effect of any of all of the following:

1. physically, emotionally, or mentally harming an individual
2. placing an individual in reasonable fear of physical, emotional, or mental harm.

Bullying and Cyber Bullying (Continued)

3. placing an individual in a reasonable fear of damage to or loss of personal property.
4. creating an intimidating or hostile environment that substantially interferes with the educational process or the ability of an employee to perform the responsibilities associated with their position.

Policy Adopted:
March 10, 2010

Bullying and Cyber Bullying**Administrative Regulations**

All incidents of bullying and cyber bullying concerning students should be reported to the building administration for investigation and necessary action. If further escalation is necessary, the matter should be reported to the Office of the Superintendent of Schools, as with all disciplinary matters, as stipulated in the District's Code of Conduct.

All incidents of bullying and cyber bullying concerning employees should be reported to the employee's immediate supervisor for investigation and necessary action. If further escalation is necessary, then matter should be reported to the Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources for investigation and necessary action.

Regulations Adopted:
March 10, 2010