

Montgomery County Public Schools - Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation

Board Policy JHF: Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation
MCPS Regulation JHF: Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation

The Montgomery County Board of Education is committed to:

- Creating an environment that is free of bullying, harassment, or intimidation so that schools are safe places in which to learn
- Prohibiting verbal, physical, or written (including electronic) bullying, harassment, or intimidation of any person on school property, on school buses, or at school-sponsored functions
- Prohibiting reprisals or retaliation against individuals who report acts of bullying, harassment, or intimidation, or who are victims, witnesses, or others with reliable information

Definition:

Bullying, harassment, or intimidation means intentional conduct, including verbal, physical, or written conduct, or an intentional electronic communication*, that creates a hostile educational environment by substantially interfering with a student's educational benefits, opportunities, or performance, or with a student's physical or psychological well-being and is

- Motivated by an actual or perceived personal characteristic including race, national origin, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, ancestry, physical attributes, socioeconomic status, or physical or mental ability or disability
- Threatening or seriously intimidating
- Occurs on school property, at a school activity or event, or a school bus
- Substantially disrupts the orderly operation of a school

* "Electronic communication" means a communication transmitted by means of an electronic device, including a telephone, cellular phone, computer or pager

What is Goshen ES Doing to Prevent and Respond to Incidences of Bullying?

Bullying, harassment, or intimidation are serious and will not be tolerated at Goshen ES. The following is a list of prevention strategies and programs that are in place at Goshen ES:

- Sustaining positive relationships and interactions with all students
- Supervision in all areas of the school building throughout the school day
- Prompt, fair, and consistent enforcement of school and classroom rules
- Stop and Think Social Skills Program – teaches social skills to all students
- School-wide Behavior Policy – clear and defined behavior expectations with opportunities for rewards and recognition for positive behavior
- Classroom guidance lessons – teaches students to identify bullying behaviors and strategies for dealing with unwanted behaviors
- Individualized behavior plans – for students in need of additional behavioral support
- Behavior Management Committee – meets monthly to track behavior referrals and monitor effectiveness of school-wide procedures and behavior plans

Reporting Bullying Incidents

If your child reports incidences of bullying...

- Talk with your child – learn the details (who/what/where/when)
- Talk with the classroom teacher – the teacher may be able to resolve the issue
- Contact the school counselor – the counselor can work with students to help them deal with feelings and discuss strategies for avoiding bullying situations
- Contact a school administrator
- File a report of bullying, harassment, or intimidation
 - Any student, parent, or close adult relative, or staff member may report an act of bullying, harassment, or intimidation, using MCPS Form 230-35: *Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation Reporting Form*. These forms are available at Goshen in the main office, health room, media center, the counselor's office, Goshen's webpage <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/goshenes/> or on the web <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/forms/230-35.shtm>.
 - Once a report is filed, the principal or designee will conduct an investigation
 - Based on the findings of the investigation, the principal or designee will take immediate and appropriate steps to discipline the offender, support the student who was bullied, and protect the student from reprisals, and prevent recurrence.