



Evaluation and Assessment of Policy 7:180 Preventing Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment

Bullying, intimidation, and harassment diminish a student's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate. Preventing students from engaging in these disruptive behaviors and providing all students equal access to a safe, non-hostile learning environment are important District goals. This report is published for the community on an annual basis as a way to assess our policies and procedures.

2023-2024

For the 2023-2024 school year, there were one hundred and forty three (144) incidents of bullying, intimidation and harassment involving ninety-nine (99) students. These came from all levels with the most at the secondary level (middle-school n=98 and high school n=31). Of these reports, a total of forty-seven (47) incidents were identified as meeting the State of IL definition of bullying.

While each situation is different, our process is to follow up with the bullied, the bully and bystanders. There may be school interventions for these situations that range from behavior contracts to varying levels of in-school or out-of-school suspensions. Consistent with our policy, our goal is to avoid exclusion for students, but based on the severity and situation, students may receive out-of-school suspensions. Fifteen (15) incidences resulted in out-of-school suspensions for this year ranging in severity from two to five days.

To reduce the incidents of bullying, harassment and intimidation, the District is working with all students on conflict management and positive relationships through advisory or social and emotional lessons.

In addition, the District has taken actions to reduce bullying in the school environment, including the following:

- Administrative training on the District's process (2023-2024 & 2024-2025)
- Staff training is being piloted in 2024-2025
- Regular review of discipline data
- Investigation of non-exclusionary interventions and consequences
- Communication to students about ways to report

While the greatest number of bullying incidents were reported in classrooms, there are more incidents of bullying in unstructured settings such as cafeterias, buses, and online. Most bullying is verbal in nature, but there are incidents of cyberbullying that have impacted the educational environment.

Students are encouraged to immediately report bullying. A report may be made orally or in writing to the Nondiscrimination Coordinator, Building Principal, Assistant Building Principal, Dean of Students, a Complaint Manager, or any staff member with whom the student is comfortable speaking. Students may also report to the Safe-to-Help line through the State of IL. Anyone, including staff members and parents/guardians, who has information about actual or threatened bullying is encouraged to report it to the District named officials or any staff member

While there is no acceptable level of bullying, harassment, or intimidation, it is also important to note that in surveys of students about their perceived level of safety and support from peers, that students generally report feeling safe and cared for. See the latest 5Essentials survey for the District for more [information](#).