



ANTI-BULLYING POLICY

The Bi-County Collaborative is committed to maintaining a school environment free of bullying. Students are prohibited from engaging in any form of harassment, intimidation, or bullying of other students or staff members. Harassment or bullying can take many forms, including physical actions, verbal taunts or threats, written or electronic communications, or internet postings or communications, made either directly to the individual, or made to others about the individual. These actions are prohibited where they have the effect of physically or emotionally harming another individual, interfering with another student's education, threatening the overall educational environment, and/or disrupting the operation of school.

Bullying may take a variety of forms. It is unacceptable in a school or work environment. As a result no student or employee shall be subjected to harassment, intimidation, bullying, or cyberbullying in any public educational institute. "Bullying", the repeated use by one or more students or by a member of a school staff including, but not limited to, an educator, administrator, school nurse, cafeteria worker, custodian, bus driver, athletic coach, advisor to an extracurricular activity or paraprofessional.

1. "Bullying and cyberbullying" means unwelcome written, electronic, verbal or physical acts or gestures where a student or employee feels coerced, intimidated, harassed or threatened and under the circumstances (1) may cause a reasonable person to suffer physical or emotional harm to a student or employee, (2) may cause damage to another student's or employee's property, or (3) may cause a disruptive or hostile school environment. The behavior must interfere with an employee's ability to perform his or her duties or with a student's academic performance or ability to learn, or interfere with a student's ability to participate in or benefit from services, activities, or privileges:
 - a. that are being offered through the school district; or
 - b. during any education program or activity; or
 - c. while in school, on school equipment or property, in school vehicles, on school buses, at designated school bus stops, at school sponsored activities, or at school sanctioned events; or
 - d. through the use of data, telephone or computer software that is accessed through a computer, computer system, or computer network or any public education institute.
2. As used in this Section, "electronics communication" means any communication through an electronic device including a telephone, cellular telephone, computer, pager, or any other electronic communication device. Students should be aware that internet communications, including communications on social networking websites and blogs, may still violate this policy even when they are made using a student's private computer outside of school hours.
3. The district will promptly and reasonably investigate allegations of harassment, including bullying. The Program Director will promptly notify the Executive Director of such allegations and will be responsible for handling all complaints by students alleging harassment, including bullying.

The Executive Director will develop a Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan in accordance with the requirements set forth by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.