

# BULLYING INFORMATION

## State of Texas on Bullying

The Texas Education Code defines bullying as engaging in written or verbal expression, expression through electronic means, or physical conduct that occurs on school property, at a school-sponsored or school-related activity, or in a vehicle operated by the district that:

1. Has the effect or will have the effect of physically harming a student, damaging a student's property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or of damage to the student's property, or
2. Is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive enough that the action or threat creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student.

## What is Bullying?

**"A person is bullied when he or she is exposed, repeatedly and over time, to negative actions on the part of one or more other persons, and he or she has difficulty defending himself or herself."**

This definition includes three important components:

1. Bullying is aggressive behavior that involves unwanted, negative actions.
2. Bullying involves a pattern of behavior repeated over time.
3. Bullying involves an imbalance of power or strength.

## Types of Bullying

Bullying can be done in these forms:

1. Verbal bullying including derogatory comments and/or bad names
2. Bullying through exclusion or isolation
3. Physical bullying such as hitting, kicking, shoving, and/or spitting
4. Bullying in the form of lies, gossip or rumors
5. Having money or property damaged or taken
6. Being threatened or forced to do things
7. Racial bullying
8. Sexual bullying
9. Cyber bullying

## Bullying is Not Teasing

It might be hard to tell the difference between playful teasing and bullying. Teasing usually involves two or more friends who act together in a way that seems fun to all the people involved. Often they tease each other equally, but it never involves physical or emotional abuse.

# LPISD ANTI-BULLYING POLICIES

## La Pryor ISD Board Policy Manual

### [STUDENT WELFARE FREEDOM FROM BULLYING FFI \(LEGAL\)](#)

LEGAL policies compile federal law, state law, and court decisions, providing the statutory context in which all other policies should be read.

### [STUDENT WELFARE FREEDOM FROM BULLYING FFI \(LOCAL\)](#)

LOCAL policies reflect decisions made by your local school board.

## Bully Defined in the LPISD Student Handbook

Bullying occurs when a student or group of students engages in written or verbal expression, expression through electronic methods, or physical conduct against another student on school property, at a school-sponsored or -related activity, or in a district operated vehicle, and the behavior:

- Results in harm to the student or the student's property,
- Places a student in reasonable fear of physical harm or of damage to the student's property, or
- Is so severe, persistent, and pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment.

This conduct is considered bullying if it exploits an imbalance of power between the student perpetrator(s) and the student victim and if it interferes with a student's education or substantially disrupts the operation of the school.

Bullying is prohibited by the district and could include hazing, threats, taunting, teasing, confinement, assault, demands for money, destruction of property, theft of valued possessions, name-calling, rumor-spreading, or ostracism. In some cases, bullying can occur through electronic methods, called "cyberbullying."

If a student believes that he or she has experienced bullying or has witnessed bullying of another student, it is important for the student or parent to notify a teacher, counselor, principal, or another district employee as soon as possible to obtain assistance and intervention. The administration will investigate any allegations of bullying or other related misconduct.

If the results of an investigation indicate that bullying has occurred, the administration will take appropriate disciplinary action. Disciplinary or other action may be taken even if the conduct did not rise to the level of bullying. The district will also contact the parents of the victim and of the student who was found to have engaged in the bullying. Available counseling options will be provided to these individuals, as well as to any students who have been identified as witnesses to the bullying.

Any retaliation against a student who reports an incident of bullying is prohibited.

The principal may, in response to an identified case of bullying, decide to transfer a student found to have engaged in bullying to another classroom at the campus. In consultation with the student's parent, the student may also be transferred to another campus in the district. The parent of a student who has been determined by the district to be a victim of bullying may request that his or her child be transferred to another classroom or campus within the district.

A copy of the district's policy is available in the principal's office, superintendent's office, and on the district's Web site.

## LPHS ANTI-BULLYING PROGRAMS

During the month of October, La Pryor High School participated in National Bully Prevention Month.

During the week of the 7<sup>th</sup>, LPHS students were asked to sign the "Bully-Free Zone" Banner as a pledge against bullying. Students who signed were given "Band Against Bullying" wristbands to wear in honor of Bully Prevention Month.

On October 29, 2013, Dwight Stewart was invited to the district to speak about different forms of bullying. Mr. Stewart is a nationally recognized presenter on school safety issues. He is a former safety/gang specialist with the Texas School Safety Center & former Detention Superintendent for the San Patricio County Juvenile Detention Center. Among some of his expertise, he has an extensive background in youth violence prevention and school safety planning. His wealth of knowledge caught some students by surprise.

## POSITIVE ACTION

Positive Action is a systematic educational program that promotes an intrinsic interest in learning and encourages cooperation among students. Positive Action is based on the intuitive philosophy that we feel good about ourselves when we do positive actions.

The Thoughts-Actions-Feelings Circle (TAF) illustrates how this works in life: Our thoughts lead to actions and those actions lead to feelings about ourselves which lead to more thoughts.



When this cycle is positive, students want to learn.

When this cycle is negative, students do not want to learn.

The essence of the program is to emphasize those actions that promote a healthy and positive cycle. The Positive Action program works through these concepts in a systematic way.

The effects of the program range from increased academic achievement to dramatic reductions in problem behaviors. These results have been replicated in diverse settings and feature the most rigorous efficacy study designs available.

## **REPORTING A BULLY**

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## **LPHS REPORT A BULLY ONLINE FORM**

If you or someone you know is experiencing a bullying, or other discipline-related concerns at LPISD, submit your concern to us at the link below. You do not need to leave your name, but the information can be helpful if the principal needs more information or to follow up with you. Specific dates, times, locations, and other information related to the incident is critical to resolving your concern.

Your concern will be taken seriously and will be worked on promptly – as the information is sent directly to the Campus Administrator. If your concern needs immediate attention, you are urged to tell a teacher, a counselor, school administrator or other trustworthy adult as soon as possible.

LPISD believes all students should feel safe to learn and grow. It is the goal of the La Pryor Independent School District to change the norms regarding bullying behavior and to restructure the school setting itself so that bullying is less likely to occur or be rewarded.

To report bullying, click on the link below and provide as much information as possible:

**[Report a Bully Form](#)**

## **HELPFUL SITES/RESOURCES**

[La Pryor High School Report a Bully Form](#)

[La Pryor ISD Online Board Policy Manual](#)

[LPISD Student, Code of Conduct, Extra-Curricular Handbooks](#)

[Positive Action](#)

[Stop Bullying](#)

[Teens Against Bullying](#)

[Texas School Safety Center](#)