

Students

Bullying

Cyberbullying

The Bristol Board of Education provides computers as tools to enhance our students' education. The District's computer network and the Internet, whether accessed on campus or off campus, during or after school hours, may not be used for the purpose of harassment of any kind. All forms of harassment over the Internet, commonly referred to as cyberbullying, are unacceptable and viewed as a violation of this policy and the District's acceptable computer use policy and procedures.

Definitions

"Cyberbullying" means any act of harassment through the use of the Internet, interactive and digital technologies, cellular mobile telephone or other mobile electronic devices or any electronic communications.

"Mobile electronic device" means any hand-held or other portable electronic equipment capable of providing data communication between two or more individuals, including, but not limited to, a text messaging device, a paging device, a laptop computer, equipment that is capable of playing a video game or equipment on which digital images are taken or transmitted.

Malicious use of the District's computer system ~~is prohibited~~ to develop programs or to institute practices that harass other users or gain unauthorized access to any entity on the system and/or damage the components of an entity on the network is prohibited. Users are responsible for the appropriateness of the material they transmit over the system. Hate mail, harassment, discriminatory remarks, or other antisocial behaviors are expressly prohibited. Cyberbullying includes, but is not limited to the following misuses of technology: harassing, teasing, intimidating, threatening, or terrorizing another person by sending or posting inappropriate and hurtful e-mail messages, instant messages, text messages, digital pictures or images, or Website postings, ~~including blogs~~. It is also recognized that the identity of the creator of the inappropriate material is often obscured or disguised. ~~author (poster or sender) of the inappropriate material is often disguised (logged on) as someone else.~~

Students and community members who believe they have been the victims of such misuses of technology, as described in this policy, should not erase the offending material from the system. A copy of the material ~~should be printed and brought to the attention of the school administrator.~~

unless it contains pornographic images or “sexting images”, should be printed and brought to the attention of the Principal. In the case of pornographic or “sexting” images, the image on the electronic device should be shown to a school administrator on the electronic device, and local law enforcement officials are to be contacted.

All reports of cyberbullying will be investigated promptly in compliance with the District’s “School Climate Policy.”

~~The administration shall fully investigate all reports of cyberbullying.~~

In situations in which the cyberbullying originated from a non-school computer, but brought to the attention of school ~~employees, officials,~~ any disciplinary action shall be based upon whether the conduct is determined to be severely disruptive of the educational process so that it markedly interrupts or severely impedes the day-to-day operations of a school. In addition, such ~~identified associated challenging behaviors~~ ~~conduct~~ must also be violative of a ~~publicized school policy.~~ ~~another District policy.~~ Such conduct includes, but is not limited to threats ~~made on or off school grounds, to kill or hurt a staff member or student,~~ or making a threat off school grounds, to kill or hurt a teacher or student. A student who redistributes inappropriate content, as previously described, is also subject to disciplinary action.

Disciplinary action may include ~~but are not limited to,~~ the loss of computer privileges, detention, suspension, or expulsion for verified perpetrators of cyberbullying. In addition, when any kind of threat is communicated or when a hate crime is committed, the administration will report such crimes to local law enforcement officials.

(cf. 0521 – Nondiscrimination)

(cf. [5114](#) – Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

(cf. [5131](#) – Conduct)

(cf. 5131.21 – Threats or Acts of Violence)

(cf. [5131.8](#) – Off School Grounds Misconduct)

(cf. 5131.912 – Aggressive Behavior)

(cf. [5131.911](#) – ~~Bullying~~ Connecticut School Climate Policy)

(cf. [5144](#) – Discipline/Punishment)

(cf. 5145.4 – Nondiscrimination)

(cf. [5145.5](#) – Sexual Harassment)

(cf. 5145.51 – Peer Sexual Harassment)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

PA 02-119, An Act Concerning Bullying Behavior in Schools and Concerning the Pledge of Allegiance

Kyle P. Packer PPA Jane Packer v. Thomaston Board of Education. (SC 15862)

Public Law 110-385 Broadband Data Improvement Act/Protecting Children in the 21 st Century Act

Wisniewski v. Bd. Of Educ., 494 F.3d 34 (2 nd Cir. 2007)

Doninger v. Niehoff, 257 F. 3d 41 (2 nd Cir. 2008)

P.A. 11-232 An Act Concerning The Strengthening of Bullying Laws

10-222d Policy on bullying behavior as amended by PA 08-160, P.A. 11-232, P.A. 14-172 and PA 18-15 and PA 19-166.

10-222g Prevention and intervention strategy re bullying and teen dating violence

10-222h Analysis of school districts' efforts re prevention of and response to bullying in schools. School climate assessment instruments

10-222i State-wide safe school climate resource network. [Repealed, Effective 7/1/2025 State-wide safe school climate resource network]

10-222k District safe school climate coordinator. Safe school climate specialist. Safe school climate committee (as amended by PA 21-95, Section 14)

10-222p Review of safe school climate plans by Department of Education. Approval or rejection.

PA 23-167 An Act Concerning Transparency in Education

Policy Adopted: September 15, 2010

BRISTOL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Policy Revised:

Bristol, Connecticut