

## What is bullying?

Bullying is the repeated use by one or more students of a written, verbal, or electronic expression or a physical act or gesture or any combination thereof, directed at a target that:

- Causes physical or emotional harm to the target or damage to the target's property;
- Places the target in reasonable fear of harm to himself or herself or of damage to his or her property;
- Creates a hostile environment at school for the target;
- Infringes on the rights of the target at school;
- Materially and substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

Repeated teasing that causes a student or group of students to feel unsafe may be bullying.

Incidents that take place outside of school but affect the safety of the learning environment may be bullying.

A single incident of teasing that purposefully tries to make another student feel unsafe may be bullying.

Bullying or teasing that causes physical harm, or may be interpreted as violating the civil rights of a student, may be referred to the Cambridge Police Department for investigation.

The Cambridge Public Schools have adopted a **Bullying Prevention And Intervention Policy** that prohibits bullying and cyber-bullying of any kind, as well as retaliation against any person who reports bullying on school grounds and on the way to or from school.

If you or someone you know is being bullied you can report it to the principal or someone who works at your school. Find more details about how to report inside this brochure.

The Cambridge Public Schools are committed to working with students, staff, families, law enforcement agencies, and the community to prevent violence of any kind.

For more information about the policy go to:

[http://www.cpsd.us/CPS\\_content/documents/antiBullyingPolicySY0910050310RevisedPolicyPerNewStateLaw.pdf](http://www.cpsd.us/CPS_content/documents/antiBullyingPolicySY0910050310RevisedPolicyPerNewStateLaw.pdf)

CAMBRIDGE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Cambridge Public Schools

## Bullying Prevention



Bullying, cyberbullying and retaliation are prohibited on school grounds, property immediately adjacent to school grounds, at school-sponsored or school-related activities, functions or programs (whether on or off school grounds), at bus stops, on school busses or other vehicles owned or operated by the Cambridge Public Schools or their contractors, or through the use of technology or electronic devices .

<http://www.cpsd.us/>



## A Safe & Welcoming School Community For Everyone

**Everyone** deserves to be treated with dignity and respect. Students, staff members and community volunteers need to feel safe and welcomed in school so that they can focus all of their attention on giving and receiving an excellent education. Schools have a civic and moral responsibility not only to reduce levels of bullying, but also to help everyone learn to take on positive roles in their communities – to be upstanders for justice, not just bystanders.

Each school community is taking steps to raise awareness about the importance of a safe and welcoming school climate as an underlying component of student achievement. Students receive age-appropriate information and skill development about bully prevention and bystander empowerment, as well as the harmful effects of bullying and retaliation.

## Ways To Report Bullying

### At Your School

An incident of bullying or retaliation can be reported to a staff member or the principal of the school attended by *any* party involved in the incident(s). When a report is received the principal and other school personnel will investigate the report following the procedures outlined in the CPS Bully Prevention and Intervention Plan.

### By Phone or Email

An incident of bullying or retaliation can be reported to:

#### Grades JK/K - 5

Maryann MacDonald  
*Assistant Superintendent, Elementary and Early Education*  
617.349.6483 | mmacdonald@cpsd.us

#### Grades 6 - 12

Carolyn Turk, *Deputy Superintendent*  
617.349.6418 | cturk@cpsd.us

When a report is received, she will contact the principal(s) of the school(s) involved. The principal and other school personnel will investigate the report following the procedures outlined in the CPS Bully Prevention and Intervention Plan.

### Anonymously

Please call 617.349.6727 and leaving a message. The report will be investigated but no disciplinary action can be taken solely as a result of an anonymous report.

## Bully Prevention Resources

**Cambridge Public Schools** Anti-Bullying Policy:

[http://www.cpsd.us/CPS\\_content/documents/antiBullyingPolicySY0910050310RevisedPolicyPerNewStateLaw.pdf](http://www.cpsd.us/CPS_content/documents/antiBullyingPolicySY0910050310RevisedPolicyPerNewStateLaw.pdf)

**Cambridge Public Schools** Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan:

[http://www.cpsd.us/CPS\\_content/documents/bullyingPreventionandInterventionPlan122110FINALVERSION1.pdf](http://www.cpsd.us/CPS_content/documents/bullyingPreventionandInterventionPlan122110FINALVERSION1.pdf)

**Common Sense Media** Each elementary school Library Media Specialist uses lessons from the CyberSmart Digital Citizenship curriculum to teach students to use the Internet for communication, creativity, collaboration, critical thinking, and problem solving—the new basic skills for 21st century learning:

<http://www.common sense media.org/educators>

**DESE** Legal, regulatory, educational and other helpful resources from the MA Department of Elementary and Secondary Education: [www.doe.mass.edu/bullying](http://www.doe.mass.edu/bullying)

**GLSEN** Links to resources for teachers, families and students from the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network: [www.glsen.org](http://www.glsen.org)

**ADL** Tools and resources to assist people in taking action to prevent and respond to bullying and cyberbullying from the Anti-Defamation League:

<http://www.adl.org/combatbullying/>