

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Board of Education
Upper Marlboro, Maryland

5143
Policy No.

BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICY

STUDENTS

Bullying, Harassment or Intimidation

In accordance with the provisions of Section 7-424.1 of the Education Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland, the Maryland State Board of Education developed and adopted a model policy to address bullying, harassment, and intimidation. All local school systems were required to establish a policy prohibiting bullying, harassment, or intimidation based on the model policy by July 1, 2009.

It is the intent of Prince George's County Public Schools to maintain safe environments that are conducive to learning. The name and contact information for the MSDE employee who is familiar with the reporting and investigating procedures in your local school system (LSS) (Charles J. Buckler, Director, Student Services and Alternative Programs Branch and Dominic M. Romano, School Safety Specialist, both at 410-767-0311.) The purpose of this policy is to ensure that school administrators take measures to promote the prevention of bullying, harassment, or intimidation in the learning environment and inform parents of these efforts.

The Board of Education has adopted the Maryland State Department of Education definition as follows:

Bullying, harassment, and intimidation are anti-social behaviors that are conducted with the intent to cause harm and are characterized by an imbalance of power. Bullying, harassment, or intimidation means intentional conduct, including verbal, physical, or written conduct or an intentional electronic communication that creates a hostile educational environment by substantially interfering with a student's educational benefits, opportunities, or performance, or with a student's physical or psychological well being and is motivated by an actual or a perceived personal characteristic including race, national origin, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, ancestry, physical attributes, socioeconomic status, familial status, or physical or mental ability or disability or is threatening or seriously intimidating; An occurs on school property, at a school activity or event, or on a school bus; or substantially disrupts the orderly operation of a school. "Electronic communication" means a communication transmitted by means of an electronic device, including, but not limited to, a telephone, cellular phone, computer, or pager.

The Board of Education hereby directs the Superintendent to develop an administrative procedure to address bullying, harassment, and intimidation, and to provide information to parents, students, and employees to ensure implementation. The Board prohibits reprisal or retaliation against individuals who reports these acts or who are victims, witnesses, bystanders,

or others with reliable information about an act of bullying, harassment, or intimidation.

Policy Adopted
6/15/09

Policy Amended
10/15/09