Dear Parent/Guardian,

Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) in an effort to enhance the process for reporting acts of bullying, harassment and intimidation has created an online bullying, harassment and intimidation app.

Your school has been selected to participate in an online bullying, harassment, and intimidation pilot program during the first quarter. Information gathered from this pilot will serve to improve the reporting process before launching this opportunity to students and parents across the school district.

Included in this packet is a FAQ resource on how to report cases of bullying, harassment, and intimidation at your school during the first quarter of this school year.
If you have additional questions, please email studentservices.br@pgcps.org

FAQ

PGCPS Online Bullying, Harassment and Intimidation
Frequently Asked Questions for Students and Families

PGCPS remains committed to the goal of ensuring safe schools for our students by the ability to improve the ability to report bullying, harassment and intimidation from every school within the system. We know that those who are bullied may experience depression, anxiety, sadness and loneliness. Victims of bullying, harassment and intimidation can suffer from changes in sleeping and eating patterns as well as experience a loss or interest in activities that they typically enjoy. We also know that bullying may have a negative impact on those who witness such acts of aggression.

Ensuring that students and families know how to report bullying can reduce the chance of bullying going unreported or students being reluctant to tell someone. Encouraging students to report bullying helps schools gain a more accurate picture of bullying in their community which in turn allows us to provide help where it is needed.

What is bullying?

Bullying is a form of violence. It involves a real or perceived imbalance of power, with the more powerful child or group attacking those who are less powerful. Bullying may be physical (hitting, kicking, spitting, pushing), verbal (taunting, malicious teasing, name calling, threatening), or emotional (spreading rumors, manipulating social relationships, extorting, or intimidating). Bullying can occur face-to-face or in the online world.

What can parents/guardians do?
Parents are encouraged to keep communication flowing between their children, teachers, and staff members. Should you become aware of bullying problems at school, report it to the school immediately and ask for and
accept help whether the child is the bully, the target, or the witness. The PGCPS Administrative Procedure 5143 is in the link below:

PGCPS Administrative Procedure, AP 5143 (English)
PGCPS Administrative Procedure, AP 5143 (en Espanol)
PGCPS Administrative Procedure, AP 5143 (Français)

What is Cyberbullying?
Cyberbullying is bullying that takes place using electronic technology, which includes devices and equipment such as cellphones, computers and tablets as well as communication tools including social media sites, text messages, chat and websites. Examples of cyberbullying include posting slurs on websites where students congregate or on web logs (personal online journals or diaries); sending abusive or threatening instant messages; using camera phones to take embarrassing photographs of students and posting them online; using websites to circulate gossip and rumors to other students; and excluding others from an online group by falsely reporting them for inappropriate language to internet service providers.

How do I report bullying incidents to my child’s school?
Incidents of bullying during the period of this pilot should be reported via the online StopBullying link. The link is accessible via the following methods:

- Web Link - http://stopbullying.pgcps.org:
- Google Play Store by searching under ‘PGCPS Bullying’

For Technical Support or assistance accessing the Bullying, Harassment, and Intimidation application please contact the PGCPS Help Desk by calling (301) 386-1549.

Should there be an issue with the submission of a report, please use the paper copy to make the report. The paper copy is available at your child’s school and also accessible via the following links:

Bullying, Harassment or Intimidation Reporting Form (English)
Bullying, Harassment or Intimidation Reporting Form (en Espanol)
Bullying, Harassment or Intimidation Reporting Form (Français)

What happens once I submit my report?
Once a report has been submitted, the reporter will receive an electronic message confirming submission. The report is sent immediately to the building principal. A copy of the report is also sent to the Department of Student Services. Per Administrative Procedure 5143, schools have two days to begin an investigation.

How are substantiated reports of bullying handled?
While each report of bullying is investigated and processed individually, all infractions and consequences are in accordance with the guidelines outlined in PGCPS Students Rights and Responsibilities. The information in this document is accessible via: https://www.pgcps.org/student_rights_responsibilities.htm