

Community Dialogue on Bullying



February 6, 2014
6:00 p.m.



AGENDA

- A. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance - Tony Mendez
- B. Welcome and Introduction - Dena Cushenberry
- C. What is Bullying? - Tony Burchett
- D. Laws on Bullying – Seamus Boyce (CCHA)
- E. K-12 Initiatives - Tim Hanson, Lou Anne Schwenn
- F. Responsible Use of Technology - James Aldridge
- G. Questions?
- H. Adjournment – Tony Mendez



Definition of Bullying

Bullying means overt, unwanted, repeated acts or gestures, including verbal or written communications or images transmitted in any manner (including digitally or electronically), physical acts committed, aggression, or any other behaviors that are committed by a student or group of students against another student with the intent to harass, ridicule, humiliate, intimidate, or harm the other targeted student, and created for the targeted student an objectively hostile school environment that:

1. places the targeted student in reasonable fear of harm to the targeted student's person or property;
2. has a substantially detrimental effect on the targeted student's physical or mental health;
3. has the effect of substantially interfering with the targeted student's academic performance; or
4. has the effect of substantially interfering with the targeted student's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, and privileges provided by the school.

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Indiana's "New" Antibullying Law

- Says what is and is not “bullying.”
 - Schools include this definition into their discipline rules.
- States that a school:
 - Adopt discipline rules that include a procedure for investigation of incidents of bullying;
 - Provide training to employees and volunteers on the school’s bullying prevention and reporting policy;
 - Provide instruction focusing on bullying prevention for all students;
 - Report antibullying incidents to IDOE by category.



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- Antibullying rules **may** apply regardless of the physical location in which the bullying behavior occurred,
 - whenever the person committing the bullying behavior *and* any of the intended targets of the bullying are students attending a school within MSD Warren; **and**
 - disciplinary action is reasonably necessary to avoid substantial interference with school discipline or prevent an unreasonable threat to the rights of others to a safe and peaceful learning environment.
 - MSD Warren prohibits bullying through the use of data or computer software that is accessed through any computer, computer system, or computer network.



“Bullying”

(b) Definition: Bullying is defined as overt, unwanted **repeated** acts or gestures including verbal or written communications or images transmitted in any manner (including digitally or electronically), physical acts committed, **aggression**, or any behaviors, that are committed by a student or a group of students against another student with the intent to harass, ridicule, humiliate, intimidate, or harm the targeted student and create for the targeted student an objectively hostile school environment that:

1. places the targeted student in reasonable fear of harm to the targeted student’s person or property;
 2. has a substantially detrimental effect on the targeted student’s physical or mental health;
 3. has the effect of substantially interfering with the targeted student’s academic performance; or
 4. has the effect of substantially interfering with the targeted student’s ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by the school.
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Not “Bullying”

- Bullying does **not** include, and should not be interpreted to impose any burden or sanction on, the following:
 - participating in a religious event;
 - acting in an emergency involving the protection of a person or property from an imminent threat of serious bodily injury or substantial danger;
 - participating in an activity consisting of the exercise of a student's freedom of speech rights;
 - participating in an activity conducted by a nonprofit or governmental entity that provides recreation, education, training, or other care under the supervision of one (1) or more adults;
 - participating in an activity undertaken at the prior written direction of the student's parent; or
 - engaging in interstate or international travel from a location outside Indiana to another location outside Indiana.
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Reporting Bullying

- **Anyone** who believes that a student has possibly been or is the victim of bullying is *encouraged to* **immediately** report the situation to an appropriate staff member.
- All staff, volunteers, and contracted service providers who observe or receive a report of suspected bullying **shall** notify a designated school administrator in charge of receiving reports of suspected bullying **within the same day**.
 - MSD Warren will act appropriately to discipline staff, volunteers, and contracted service providers who fail to initiate or conduct an investigation of a bullying incident
 - MSD Warren will act appropriately to discipline students, staff members, visitors, or volunteers who make false reports of bullying.



Reporting Bullying

- Any person who makes a report of bullying and requests to remain anonymous will not be personally identified as the reporter to extent permitted by law.
- Staff will review anonymous complaints and take reasonable action, to the extent that such action:
 - Does not disclose the source of the complaint; and
 - Is consistent with due process rights of alleged perpetrator.



Investigating Reports of Bullying

- Administration will investigate reports of bullying and harassment
 - Initiated within 1 school day of receiving the complaint
 - Ordinarily be completed within 10 school days
- Information relating to the investigation will be gathered using means including: witness interviews; request for written witness statements; record identification and review; an assessment of whether bullying occurred.
- Such investigation must include any action or appropriate responses that may be taken immediately to address the bullying conduct wherever it takes place.
- The parents of the bully and the targeted student(s) shall be notified by a phone call or other appropriate means within 2 school days after the designated school administrator receives the report of suspected bullying.
- The parents of the bully and the targeted student(s) will further be notified on a regular, periodic basis of the progress and the findings of the investigation and of any remedial action that has been taken.



Reporting Bullying to IDOE

- **Effective July 1, 2014**, each corporation must submit a report of bullying incidents to IDOE.
 - Each school within the corporation must report the number of bullying incidents by category:
 - **Physical** (hurting a person's body or possessions)
 - **Verbal** (teasing, name-calling, inappropriate sexual comments, taunting, or threatening to cause harm)
 - **Social / relational** (telling other children not to be friends with someone, leaving someone out on purpose, spreading rumors about someone, or embarrassing someone in public)
 - **Written communication / electronic** (cyber-bullying, any bullying through cell phones or computers, group note writing)
 - **Combination** of 2+ of the above
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K-6 Initiatives

- CR-PBIS
- Training for Employees
- Staff have protocol and reporting
- All students received guidance
- Student Pledge
- Mr. MoJo worked with all elementary schools
- System of Interventions



7-12 Initiatives

- Investigation and In-School Reporting Protocols
 - Disciplinary Consequences and Support (Stages of Interventions)
 - Follow-up Services (Administration and Counselors)
 - Training of All Employees
 - Prevention Instruction for Students
 - Student Pledges
 - Take a Stand (Student Organizations)
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Indy School Takes a Stand Against Bullying



<http://www.wishtv.com/news/local/indy-school-takes-stand-against-bullying>

Reporting

- Website available to all school community members to report bullying incidents. The following website:
www.warren.k12.in.us

Stop bullying by reporting it
when it happens!



Technology

Responsible
Use of Technology
at
School and at
Home



Resources

Websites

Stop Bullying Now www.stopbullyingnow.com

Safe Child Program – Bullies
www.safechild.org/bullies.htm#TAKEASTAND

Bully B-Ware www.bullybeware.com

Bullying.Org www.bullying.org

<http://www.doe.in.gov/student-services/bullying-prevention-intervention-indiana>

Resources

Books for Students

Don't Sweat the Small Stuff For Teens
by Richard Carlson, Hyperion

A Teen's Game Plan For Life by Lou Holtz, Sorin Books

Books for Adults

Before It's Too Late: Why Some Kids Get Into Trouble and What Parents Can do About It by S. Samenow, Random House

Safe Passage: Making it Through Adolescence In a Risky Society by Joy G. Dryfoos, Oxford

Bullying at School: What We Know and What We Can Do by Dan Olweus, Oxford

Schools Where Everyone Belongs by Stan Davis, Research Press

Bullying in American Schools by Anne Garrett, McFarland & Co.

Weakfish by Michael Dorn

Questions

