



BULLYING PREVENTION SAFETY TIPS

Bullying a single significant act or a pattern of acts by one or more students directed at another student that exploits an imbalance of power and involves engaging in written or verbal expression, expression through electronic means, or physical conduct that satisfies the applicability requirements provided by Subsection (a-1) of the Texas Educational Code.

Cyberbullying is bullying that takes place using electronic technology, such as chat rooms, instant messaging, social media, or other forms of digital electronic communication. With apps and technology changing all the time, unfortunately some use them as new ways to bully.

Did you know?

- Schools are legally required to have an anonymous reporting system, such as Crime Stoppers, to report bullying
- Every 7 seconds a child is bullied.⁸
- Nearly 75% of school shootings have been linked to harassment and bullying
- 11% of students in Houston did not go to school at least one day because they felt unsafe⁶
- More than half of bullying situations (57%) stop when a peer intervenes on behalf of the student being bullied⁹
- In the U.S. 10% of boys and 20% of girls are cyberbullied each year.

PARENTS

- To mitigate opportunities for victimization and cyberbullying, talk to your student about the importance of not sharing personal information and frustrations online.
- Safeguard all electronic devices by adjusting setting such as privacy and filters. For more information on how to utilize safety setting visit bark.us.
- Teach your child how to block and report anyone who reaches out to them privately, makes them feel uncomfortable and/or asks for personal information.
- Monitor your child's internet usage – while trust is important, there are many forms of victimization that can occur online. Having access to your student's social media accounts and actively monitoring their internet usage can assist greatly in the event of potential victimization.

If your child is bullied:

- Support your child and listen without judgment
- Gather all the details and ask to see any evidence
- Contact and work with the school to help resolve the problem, ask to see their policies

STUDENTS

- It is never your fault if you are victimized!
- Inform your school, police, or Crime Stoppers of unsafe situations.
- Block and tell a trusted adult if anyone reaches out privately, asks for personal information/pictures or makes you feel uncomfortable or unsafe.
- Remember that anything you post online will stay online indefinitely, even if your accounts are private.

If you are bullied:

- Do not respond or retaliate!
- Save evidence such as screenshots and document any incidents of wrongdoing.
- Report! To a trusted adult, police or Crime Stoppers.

STUDENTS (CONTINUED)

Be a friend:

- Support those who are being bullied, whether you know them or not, on and offline.
- Don't join in just to fit in.
- Tell bullies to stop (if you feel safe to do so).
- Report! To a trusted adult, police or Crime Stoppers.

SCHOOL STAFF

Even though bullying pertains to schools – if an issue is initiated online and carries over to school – it's bullying. Review Section 37.0832 of the Texas Education Code and the Student Code of Conduct to communicate expectations.

Prevention:

- Be vigilant and proactive by integrating bullying lessons in your class/school
- Be a unified voice with the other staff members on your campus. Work collectively to mitigate bullying across your entire campus.

If a student reports:

- Believe them, stay calm, and take action.
- Separate kids involved and make sure everyone is safe.
- Be discreet and speak to those involved privately and individually.
- Inform parents of all students involved within 3 days.
- Follow up!



BEWARE! - WHEN THE BULLYING BECOMES A CRIME

Did you know that the legal age you can be charged with crimes in Texas is 10? Offenses can occur at school, away from school and through electronic means such as social media. Bullying behavior can have lasting social, academic and criminal consequences.

The following conduct can be a crime and/or warrant disciplinary action at school:

- Physically hitting or assaulting someone
- Harassment including:
 - Excessive texts/messages/calls
 - Obscene texts/messages/calls
 - Racial or gender slurs
 - Threats of harm to you, your family or property
- Making violent threats (even if you're joking)
 - To your school such as shootings and bomb threats
 - That cause emergency services to respond
 - That prevents or interrupts the school day, transportation or communications
 - That puts a person or the public in fear for their safety
 - Death threats
- Telling someone to harm themselves
- Inappropriate pictures (Sexting)
 - Taking a photo of someone in a place where they expect privacy such as bathroom or locker room
 - If you are under 18 and take an inappropriate picture/video of yourself
 - If you take an inappropriate picture/video of anyone under the age of 18
 - If share a picture/video of yourself or someone else
 - You are in possession of a picture/video (even if you did not ask for it)
 - You coerce, threaten or extort someone to send you a picture/video
- Stalking someone
- Committing hate crimes

How to Report a Tip



Call 713.222.TIPS (8477)



Use our **Mobile App**

Download app name: Crime Stoppers Houston



Go to **crime-stoppers.org**

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL BULLYING PREVENTION MONTH

To find out more information about cyberbullying, visit

dauidslegacy.org