



High Road School
Bullying Intervention and Prevention Policy
Updated March 2022

High Road School of Massachusetts is committed to providing all students with a safe learning environment that is free from bullying, cyber bullying and retaliation. High Road School will take specific steps to create a secure and supportive environment for vulnerable populations throughout the school building, on school grounds and in school related activities. All students will be provided with the proper skills, knowledge, and strategies to identify, prevent, report, and respond to bullying and retaliation.

Definitions

Bullying, as defined in M.G.L. c. 71, § 37O, (amended and signed in 2014), is the repeated use by one or more students or by a member of a school staff including, but not limited to, and educator, administrator, school nurse, cafeteria worker, custodian, bus driver, athletic coach, advisor to an extracurricular activity or paraprofessional of a written, verbal, or electronic expression or a physical act or gesture or any combination thereof, directed at a target that:

- i. causes physical or emotional harm to the target or damage to the target's property;
- ii. places the target in reasonable fear of harm to himself or herself or of damage to his or her property;
- iii. creates a hostile environment at school for the target;
- iv. infringes on the rights of the target at school; or
- v. materially and substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

Cyber-bullying is the use of technology or electronic devices such as telephones, cell phones, computers, and the internet. It includes, but is not limited to email, instant messages, text messages, and internet postings. M.G.L. c. 71, § 37O

The prevention of bullying in our school must be a joint effort including both school staff and parent/guardians. The role of the parent of the target and/or aggressor in understanding the bullying situation and working with their child and the school is crucial to the student's development of appropriate social skills.

All reports of bullying or retaliation are immediately investigated by our administrative team and in doing so, will consider all available info known, including the nature of the allegation(s) and the ages of those involved. High Road School of Massachusetts provides training to all staff on the Bullying Intervention Plan as well as ongoing professional development using the MARC (Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center) curriculum. Professional development will also address ways to prevent and respond to bullying and retaliation to students with disabilities that must be considered when developing students IEP.

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