



4. Substantially interfering with the student's or students' ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

Cyber-bullying means bullying using technology or any electronic communication, including without limitation any transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data, or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic system, photo-electronic system, or photo-optical system, including without limitation electronic mail, Internet communications, instant messages, or facsimile communications. *Cyber-bullying* includes the creation of a webpage or weblog in which the creator assumes the identity of another person or the knowing impersonation of another person as the author of posted content or messages if the creation or impersonation creates any of the effects enumerated in the definition of *bullying*. *Cyber-bullying* also includes the distribution by electronic means of a communication to more than one person or the posting of material on an electronic medium that may be accessed by one or more persons if the distribution or posting creates any of the effects enumerated in the definition of *bullying*.

PROCEDURE

Bullying may take various forms, including without limitations one or more of the following: harassment, threats, intimidation, stalking, physical violence, sexual harassment, sexual violence, theft, public humiliation, destruction of property, or retaliation for asserting or alleging an act of bullying.

Students who believe they have been the subject of bullying are encouraged to report the matter immediately to the Administrator or School Therapy and Clinical Coordinator:

- Phil Siegel, School Principal, psiegel@littlecity.org, 847-221-7728
- Kimberly Blecha, School Clinical Coordinator, kblecha@littlecity.org, 847-221-7161

Students may choose to report to a person of the student's same gender. All ChildBridge Center for Education employees are required to report all incidents of possible bullying which come to their attention whether through student or parent complaints or their own observation. Anonymous reports are also acceptable. Bullying reports can be made anonymously to the Administrator in writing or phone call. The Administrator will investigate the complaint as soon as possible or appoint a qualified person to undertake the investigation on his or her behalf.

Any student who is determined, after an investigation, to have engaged in bullying in violation of this policy, and the bullying behavior is within the scope of the school's jurisdiction, will be subject to disciplinary action consistent with the ChildBridge Center for Education behavior intervention policy up to and including a manifestation determination. Students may be referred to their home school district for further disciplinary action.

Consistent with rules governing student privacy rights, the parent(s)/guardian(s) of every student involved in an alleged incident of bullying shall be promptly informed and made aware of the availability of social work services, counseling measures, other interventions, and restorative measures.

Any and all reports of bullying will be investigated and determined to either constitute bullying or not. In the event it is decided that a report constitutes a form of bullying the following but not limited to, will then be



assessed to determine the actions of the school.

- a. The frequency of victimization.
- b. Student, staff, and family observations of safety at school.
- c. Identification of areas of a school where bullying occurs.
- d. The types of bullying that are common or occurring.
- e. Bystander intervention or participation

After assessing the severity and occurrence of an event, administration will create an action plan to ensure the emotional and physical safety of the student. This plan includes, but is not limited to:

- a. Schedule change for the bullying party.
- b. Mediation guided by a therapist.
- c. Therapeutic assignment.
- d. Removal of bully from school.
- e. In-school suspension.

Should it be determined that a person has falsely accused another of bullying, the severity and intention of the report will be assessed. The following are possible actions the school may take, but are not limited to:

- a. Therapeutic assignment.
- b. In-school suspension.
- c. Additional therapeutic minutes.
- d. Schedule change.

Should a report be filed that is deemed to be outside of the permissible scope of the school's jurisdiction as it pertains to policy 105 ILCS 5/27-23.7, the victim of the incident will be provided information about services that are available within the school and the students community such as counseling and support services.

A reprisal or retaliation against any person who reports an act of bullying is prohibited. A student's act of reprisal or retaliation will be subject to disciplinary action consistent with the ChildBridge Center for Education behavior intervention policy up to and including a manifestation determination. Students may be referred back to their home school district for further disciplinary action.

A student will not be punished for reporting bullying or supplying information, even if the ChildBridge Center for Education's investigation concludes that no bullying occurred. However, knowingly making a false accusation or providing knowingly false information will be treated as *bullying* for purposes of determining any consequences or other appropriate remedial actions.