

Bullying happens at school, online, in the workplace, and even at home. Often, people experience bullying because of their race, sexual orientation, appearance, or disability. Many students with disabilities already have unique challenges in school. When they are bullied, it can impact their ability to learn and grow.

Kansas anti-bullying laws include the following definitions of bullying and cyberbullying.

BULLYING MEANS:

Any intentional gesture, written, verbal, electronic or physical act or threat either by any student, staff member or parent towards a student or by any student, staff member or parent towards a staff member that is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that such gesture, act or threat creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment that a reasonable person, under the circumstances, knows or should know will have the effect of:

- harming a student or staff member, whether physically or mentally;
- damaging a student's or staff member's property;
- placing a student or staff member in reasonable fear of harm to the student or staff member; or
- placing a student or staff member in reasonable fear of damage to the student's or staff member's property.

TALKING WITH YOUR CHILD ABOUT BULLYING

It is important to understand how to communicate with your child about bullying. Some children have an easier time talking to adults. Others may not want to share information. When talking to your child, you should consider how they will handle the questions, and their emotions. It's important to listen without judgment and provide a safe place for your child to express their feelings.


CYBERBULLYING MEANS:

Bullying by use of any electronic communication device through means including, but not limited to, e-mail, instant messaging, text messages, blogs, mobile phones, pagers, online games, and websites.

RECORD KEEPING AND WORKING WITH YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL

- Document the events and develop a record of what is happening
- Keep a timeline of events to have when talking with your child's school
- Review your school district's bullying policies
- Request an in-person meeting with your child's teacher and principal to talk about your concerns
- Keep notes of your meetings and set up follow-up times to discuss progress

Find out more information:

 families.togetherinc.org

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