

An Overview for Parents:

**Bullying/ Cyber –
Bullying Policy,
and Internet Safety**

State Statute and Brevard Public School Policy- Bullying/Harassment

- Introduction to: Florida State Statute 1006.147- The Jeffery Johnston “Stand Up For All Act”
- Brevard Public Schools Bully Policy 5517.01
- Prohibits bullying/harassment to any student, school employee, volunteer, parent, school visitor



Brevard's Bully Policy

Our Board is committed to a safe, secure, positive, productive and nurturing educational environment that is free from bullying or harassment of any kind for all of its students, employees, volunteers, parents and/or school visitors.

Definition of Bullying/Harassment

Bullying/Harassment means physically or verbally or emotionally hurting someone on purpose. It is unwanted and repeated, and can be written, verbal, or physical behavior...

“It may involve, but is not limited to:”

- (Unwanted) teasing
- Social exclusion
- Threat
- Intimidation
- Stalking
- Physical violence
- Theft
- Public humiliation

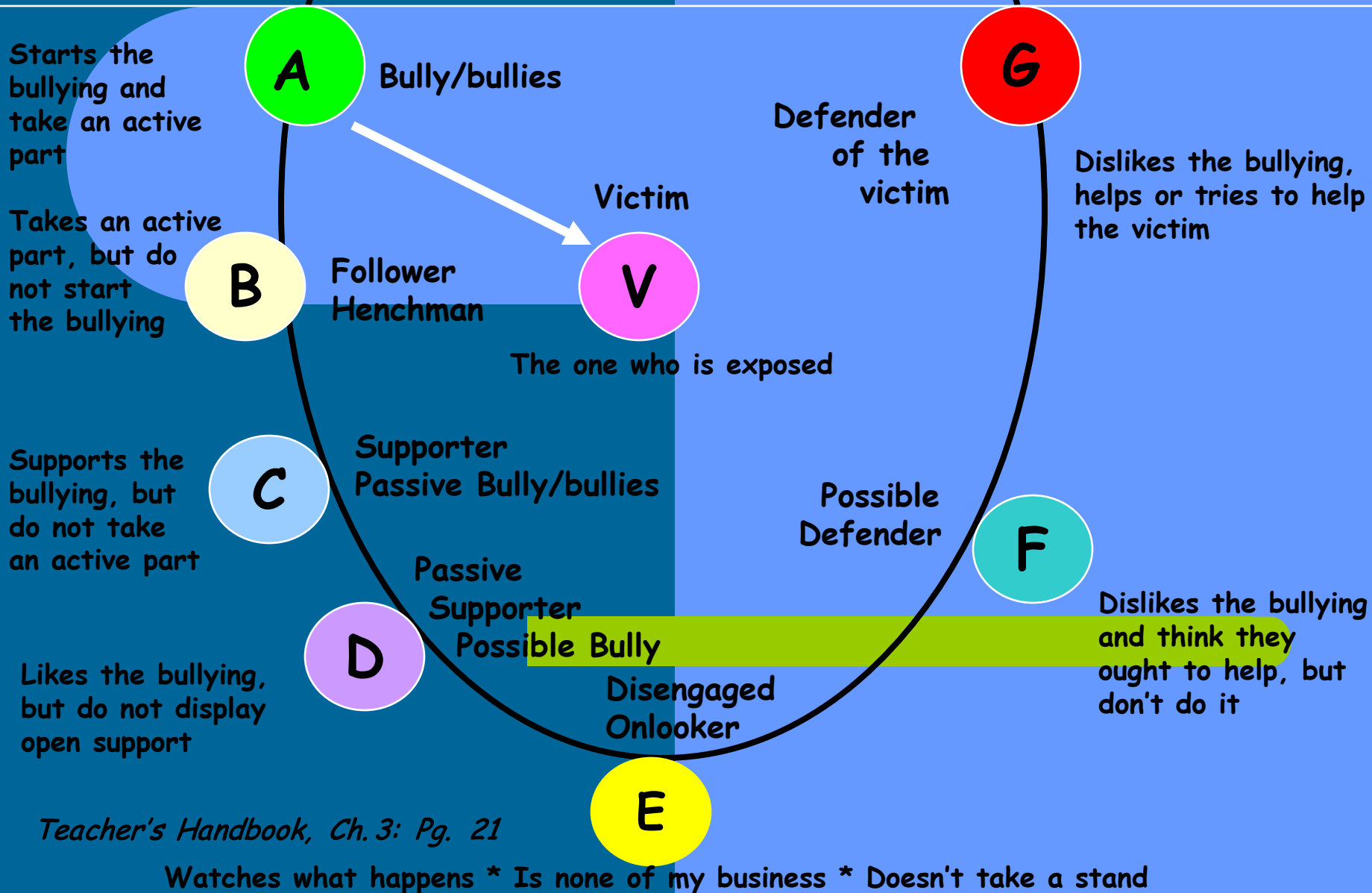
- Sexual, religious, or racial/ethnic harassment
- Damaging or destruction of property
- Placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to his/her person or property
- Cyber-bullying
- Cyber-stalking

Characteristics of Bullying

RIP

Repeated
Imbalance of Power
Purposeful

The Bullying Circle



Teacher's Handbook, Ch. 3: Pg. 21

Expected Behaviors from All

- No tolerance for bullying/harassment;
- Create a positive school climate
- All will demonstrate appropriate behavior and treat others with civility and respect.

CYBERBULLYING



Cyber-bullying & Cyber-stalking

“Use of electronic communication or technological devices to include...”

- Email messages
- Instant messaging
- Text messaging
- Cellular phone communication
- Internet blogs
- Social websites

- Internet chat rooms
- Internet postings
- Digital pictures / images
- Defamatory websites to engage in acts of bullying and harassment

Consequences of Cyber-bullying

- **More People are Exposed to the Bullying**
- **Cyber-bully Feels Invisible**
- **Easier to Not Have Empathy, Can't "See" the Victim**
- **Person Might Not Be Aware They are a Victim**
- **Embarrassment, Conflict, Hurt, Anger, Depression, Isolation, Suicide**

New addition regarding Cyber-bullying:

“The physical location or time of access of a computer-related incident cannot be raised as a defense in any disciplinary action initiated under this section.”

What does that mean?

No matter where or what computer is used, if your child uses it to bully/harass a student and/or school based adult, if reported, disciplinary sanctions must be taken by the school administrator.

What Can You Do To Reduce or Stop Cyber-bullying

- **Change the Cell Number or E-mail Address**
- **Use “Blocks” or “Private” Feature**
- **Report Bully to Your Internet Provider**
- **Don’t Respond to Bully**
- **Teach Netiquette, Discuss Responsible Internet Behavior**
- **Listen to Your Child**
- **Discourage the Use of Personal Data**
- **“Google” your child’s name**

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What Can A Child Do If They Are Being Bullied? What Can a Parent Say to their Child?

- Stay Calm, Think
- Report It
- Move Away from the person
- Join Others
- Avoid the person
- Assert Self
- Use Self-Talk



How to help some one else (Positive Bystanders) What Parents can say to their Children

- Not participating in bullying behavior
- Get adult help (report)
- Call The Victim Over
- Show Disapproval
- Show Empathy
- Stand Up & Speak Out

How Students Report

- **Verbal:** In-person reporting;
- **Written:** BPS Bullying/Harassment Reporting form - Elementary or Secondary/Adult;
- **Anonymous:** Bully Box, Speak Out Hotline (1.800.226.7733), School-based website if applicable.



Incident Reporting and Immunity

- **GOOD FAITH** – Anyone making a report in good faith is immune from cause of action/damages. It will NOT effect employment, grades, learning/working environment or assignments.
- **WRONGFUL & INTENTIONAL** – Consequences and appropriate remedial action will apply.

Actions taken for students who violate the policy...

- Counseling;
- Letters / phone calls to parents of both the bully and the victim;
- Suspension;
- Expulsion;
- Reported to law enforcement.

Consequences for Parents, Visitors/Volunteers who violate this policy...

- Determined by the School Administrator;
- Trespassed;
- If applicable, report to appropriate law enforcement agency.

INTERNET SAFETY



Children, Preteens and Teens:

- **Use Instant Messages (IM) to Talk Back and Forth to their Friends**
- **Might Create their Own World, on Websites or Profiles**
- **Compete to See Who Has the Most Friends on “Buddy” List**
- **Often Do Not Understand How Large the Cyber World is (WWW) World Wide Web**



Online Gaming

- **Used to Be for Solitary Playing Now Multi-Players**
- **Examples of sites: Runescape, World of War Craft, Club Penguin, WeeWorld**
- **Safety Tips: No sharing of personal information, Teach how to report on the sites, (bullies), set time limits**

A Few Basics:

- Begin to Catch Up; They Know Too Much More Than We Do
- Become an Active On-Line Parent
- Share Your Concerns **But Don't Over-React or Under-React**
- View Their Profile or Web Page
- Tell Them You'll be Monitoring
- Move the Computer to an Open Area

Learn More About Their Internet Language:

- **ASL = Age, Sex, Location**
- **PAW = Parents Are Watching**
- **WAY = Who Are You?**
- **() = Hugging**
- **#-) = Wiped Out, Partied All Night**
- **Drop Vowels; Use Numbers to Replace Letters**

FINAL THOUGHTS

- **Partner with Your Child's School**
- **Be an Active Online Parent**
- **List of program with strategies: Lifeskills; Second Step; Bullyproofing your School; Aggressors, Victims and Bystanders**