

Wharton ISD Bullying Definition and Procedures

Bullying

Bullying occurs when a student or group of students engages in written or verbal expression, expression through electronic methods, or physical conduct against another student on school property, at a school-sponsored or related activity, or in a district operated vehicle, and the behavior:

- results in harm to the student or the student's property, or
- places a student in reasonable fear of physical harm or of damage to the student's property, or
- is so severe, persistent, and pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment.

This conduct is considered bullying if it exploits an imbalance of power between the student perpetrator(s) and the student victim and if it interferes with a student's education or substantially disrupts the operation of the school.

Bullying is prohibited by the district and could include hazing, threats, taunting, teasing, confinement, assault, demands for money, destruction of property, theft of valued possessions, name-calling, rumor-spreading, or ostracism. In some cases, bullying can occur through electronic methods, called "cyberbullying".

Steps to Report Bullying

If you or your child experience(s) an incidence of bullying, please follow these steps and complete the Bullying Complaint form:

- **Step 1:** A report must be completed to file a complaint related to an incident of the alleged bullying. *To the greatest extent possible, the District will provide confidentiality and respect the privacy of the complainant, persons against whom a report is filed, and witnesses. Limited disclosures may be necessary in order to conduct a thorough investigation.*
- **Step 2:** Once the form is completed, the form should be returned to the school's Principal/designee of the victim's home school or the appropriate district office.
- **Step 3:** Upon receiving the Complaint Form, an investigation will be conducted to determine whether a violation of the Student Code of Conduct has occurred: if so, the appropriate disciplinary action will be taken.

Bullying Complaint Report Form

Please download the [Bullying Complaint Form](#) to file an incident report. After you complete the form, please turn it into your school Principal/designee or the appropriate district office.