

Safe Schools Policy

POSTED IN EVERY CLASSROOM AT THE RICHMOND SCHOOL

The Dresden School Board and the Richmond Middle School community are committed to providing a learning and working environment which ensures the personal safety of all its members. Students and staff members of the Dresden Schools have a right to remain safe from physical or verbal intimidation or assault; personal or sexual harassment; or any form of bullying, including cyberbullying.

WHAT IS BULLYING? Bullying is a single significant incident or a pattern of incidents involving a written, verbal, or electronic communication, a physical act or gesture, or a combination of these, directed at another student or group that causes any of the following:

- Physical or emotional harm
- Damage to a student's property
- Interference with a student's educational opportunities
- Isolation of a student or group based on real or perceived differences: social, emotional, behavioral or personal characteristics or beliefs
- Creation of a hostile educational environment
- Substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school

WHERE MIGHT BULLYING TAKE PLACE?

- On school property
- On or off school property at a school-sponsored activity
- Off school property or outside of a school-sponsored activity if the conduct interferes with a student's educational opportunities or substantially disrupts the orderly operation of the school or school-sponsored activity

THINK ABOUT YOUR BEHAVIOR: DO YOU COMMIT ACTS OF BULLYING?

If the answer is "Yes", STOP & REFLECT: Ask yourself why you are bullying others and how they might be feeling. Step in their shoes, stop the meanness, and get help to change your behavior.

THINK ABOUT YOUR BEHAVIOR: DO YOU KNOW ABOUT ACTS OF BULLYING?

If the answer is "Yes" and you did nothing, you are a victim or a bystander, and it's time to change.

BECOME AN ACTIVIST FOR YOURSELF AND OTHERS! Bullying will often not stop unless the victim objects or an observer stands up for the victim. If you or someone you know is being bullied, take action in any or all of the following ways:

- Tell the offender directly that his or her behavior is hurtful and ask that person to stop.
- Let the victim know that the way they are being treated is NOT OK and offer your support.
- Report the action to your parent or a trusted adult at school or in the community.

NOTE: Anyone who intimidates a person for reporting an act of bullying will be strongly disciplined.

WHAT HAPPENS TO OFFENDERS? Our goal is to create a safe community for everyone.

Changing negative behavior is far more meaningful than simple punishment and is possible if we act together to put an end to bullying in our school. All staff members are expected to intervene immediately when aware of bullying and report incidents to the administration; we hope students will learn to do the same. Acts of substantiated bullying may be subject to consequences according to Dresden District and Richmond School discipline guidelines and New Hampshire Law.

Bullying of Anyone Hurts Everyone in our Community!

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Based on 2010 New Hampshire Law and Dresden Policy on Pupil Safety and Violence Prevention

