

Students

Activities

Anti-bullying/Respect and Relationships

The Watertown Unified School District is committed to making our schools a safe, learning environment. It is the policy of the Watertown Unified School District to provide a working and learning environment free from all forms of harassment including incidents of sexual harassment, intimidation, or bullying.

Bullying is a conscious, willful, and deliberately hostile activity intended to harm, induce fear through the threat of further aggression, and create terror.

~Coloroso, Barbara (2003)

The Bully, the Bullied, and the Bystander. Harper Collins.

Examples of bullying and disrespectful behavior include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Hurting someone physically or threatening to hurt someone
- Ganging up on someone
- Teasing in a hurtful way or using put-downs
- Insulting someone's race, gender, appearance, socioeconomic status, religion or sexual orientation, or disability status
- Starting or spreading rumors
- Purposely excluding someone in a mean way
- Stealing or defacing someone's personal property
- Getting another person to assault someone
- Threatening someone via written means including electronic communication.
- Using digital technologies (cyber-bullying) to generate or repeat hostile or damaging content intended to harm others including but not limited to: e-mail, cell phones, text messages, instant messages, chat rooms, and social media (i.e. My Space, Twitter or Facebook). Cyber-bullying is prohibited and treated the same as all other types of bullying.

District employees will do the following to help promote respectful relationships and to keep students feeling safe at school:

- Closely supervise students in the building and on campus, where appropriate
- Watch for signs of bullying and stop it when it happens
- Respond quickly and sensitively to bullying reports
- Take parental concerns about bullying seriously
- Look into all reported bullying incidents
- Assign consequences for bullying
- Provide immediate consequences for students who retaliate against students who report acts of disrespect or bullying

School and/or District resources will help promote respectful relationships by emphasizing the following:

- Treat each other respectfully

- Refuse to bully or harass others
- Refuse to let others be bullied or harassed
- Refuse to watch, laugh or join in when someone is being bullied or harassed
- Try to include everyone in activities
- Report bullying, including cyber-bullying, to a school staff member.
- Recognize and act upon their role as responsible citizens in the school community

Wisconsin Statutes give the Board authority to establish rules that pertain to the conduct of students to maintain a safe, caring academic environment. Therefore, any form of bullying will be taken seriously and appropriate remedial actions will be enforced. Examples of remedial measures include:

- Restitution and restoration
- Meetings involving school staff and/or School Police Liaison Officer
- Peer support group
- Corrective instruction or other relevant learning or service experience, as appropriate
- Behavioral assessment or evaluation, including, but not limited to, a referral to site based assistance/intervention teams, as appropriate
- Behavioral management plan
- Involvement of school administration
- Student counseling with guidance or other pupil services staff
- Parent conferences

Policy Approved: July 26, 2007

Policy Revised: May 14, 2015
November 23, 2015