



The Board of Education, administration and staff are committed to providing an educational environment free from harassment, bullying, and cyberbullying for all students and staff members. This brochure provides a brief overview of the district's policy on bullying and cyberbullying. All students and employees should take the time to review this important information. We encourage students to discuss the policy with their parents and direct any questions to their principal, Dignity Act Coordinator, or Title IX officer (listed on the back panel). If you would like a copy of the complete district policy on bullying and harassment contact the office of the Superintendent of Schools.

The Dignity for All Students Act took effect on July 1, 2012. This legislation seeks to provide public elementary and secondary school students with a safe and supportive environment free from discrimination, intimidation, taunting, harassment, and bullying on school property, a school bus and/or at a school function. An amendment to this law includes cyberbullying took effect July 1, 2013. The State Education Department provided a document on Guidance for Creating a Safe and Supportive Environment for Transgender and Gender Nonconforming Students, July 2015.

Individuals to Contact Regarding Bullying, Cyberbullying and Hazing

High School

Dr. Michael Johnson, Principal, Grades 9-12

Email: mjohnson@scsd.org
Telephone: (518) 373-6100, ext. 30001

Middle School

Timothy Hulihan, Principal, Grades 6-8

Email: thulihan@scsd.org
Telephone: (518) 373-6100, ext. 30010

Pre-K - Grade 12

Clint Froschauer, Assistant Principal

Email: cfroschauer@scsd.org
Telephone: (518) 373-6100, ext. 30040

School Counselors (373-6100)

Theresa Guiry, Grades 6-8, ext. 30004
tguiry@scsd.org

Jennifer O'Brien, Grades 9-12, ext. 30005
jobrien@scsd.org

Lisa Miller, Grades 9-12, ext. 30006
lmiller@scsd.org

Title IX Officer

Patricia Morris, Superintendent of Schools Email:

pmorris@scsd.org
Telephone: (518) 373-6100, ext. 30022

DASA (Dignity for All Students Act) Coordinators:

Dr. Michael Johnson, Principal, Grades 9-12

Email: mjohnson@scsd.org
Telephone: (518) 373-6100, ext. 30001 and

Timothy Hulihan, Principal, Grades 6-8

Email: thulihan@scsd.org
Telephone: (518) 373-6100, ext. 30010

BULLYING, CYBERBULLYING AND HAZING

PROMOTING A POSITIVE SCHOOL
ENVIRONMENT FREE FROM
HARASSMENT, BULLYING,
CYBERBULLYING AND DISCRIMINATION.



Stillwater Central School District
1068 Hudson Avenue
Stillwater, New York 12170
Phone: (518) 373-6100
www.scsd.org



What are the categories of classes protected from harassment, bullying, and cyberbullying?

Bullying, cyberbullying, and discrimination are prohibited based on a person's actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender, or sex.

What Is Bullying?

Bullying is any inappropriate persistent behavior, including threats or intimidation of others, treating others cruelly, terrorizing, coercing, or habitual putdowns. Common characteristics of bullying are:

- *Physical* – hitting, kicking, taking or damaging a victim's property.
- *Verbal* – using words to berate, hurt, or humiliate.
- *Relational* – spreading rumors, and/or actively excluding a person from the peer group to cause emotional harm, including cyberbullying and misuse of social media.



What Is Cyberbullying?

Cyberbullying is any form of electronic messaging (including email, text messaging, and social networking) that is intended to "intimidate, control, manipulate, put down, falsely discredit, or humiliate the recipient."

Some common examples of cyberbullying are:

- Using electronic communication to monitor and harass the victim in order to control the victim's online participation.

- Spreading rumors about the victim online to harm the victim's reputation, and turning others to disparage the victim as well – sometimes by "ganging up" on the victim in an online forum.
- Using a fake online identity to trick the victim into revealing personal information, and using this information to harass the victim.
- Releasing the victim's private information, including personal photos, with the intent to damage the victim's reputation.

Cyberbullying most often is done via instant messaging, chat rooms, email, websites, and text messaging, in that order. Students who are targeted by a cyberbully should speak to their parents or the proper school authority to receive help.

Sexting defined: Peers forwarding sexually explicit images of themselves (semi-nude - nude pictures). While sexting often originates as a private exchange between two peers, it is often distributed to others. The consequences of sexting include:

- Extreme embarrassment for the involved student(s);
- Emotional upset leading to poor decision-making (school avoidance, fights, drop in grades, loss of friends, and more);
- Police involvement;
- Potential criminal prosecution;
- Potential child pornography charges.

Transgender and Gender Nonconforming (GNC) Students

State Education Department guidance, July 2015, supports Transgender and GNC students to participate in all school activities consistent with gender identity without discrimination.

Transgender and Gender Nonconforming (GNC) students are protected from discrimination by Title IX law. Students, staff and all individuals shall respect name change, pronoun to refer to Transgender and GNC, and refrain from any discrimination based on gender identity.

Offenses Occurring Off School Grounds

Bullying or cyberbullying occurring off school property where such acts create a risk of substantial disruption in school must be addressed by school officials.

What can I do if I am being Bullied or cyberbullied?

If a student, colleague, or peer feels they have been bullied or cyberbullied, they should report the incident to their principal, Dignity Act coordinator, school nurse, or to the district's Title IX officer (listed on the back of this brochure). Complaints should be made immediately after the occurrence; however, a complaint received at any time will be dealt with when it is received.

Retaliation

Incidents of bullying or cyberbullying may be pursued through informal intervention and mediation, or through the filing of a formal complaint. All conversations are kept confidential to the extent permitted by law. If the student is a minor, parents will be notified and may be involved in a resolution. It is a violation of district policy to intentionally file a false complaint. Appropriate action will be taken against anyone filing a false complaint.

Retaliation for reporting an incident of bullying, cyberbullying, or harassment is strictly forbidden and will result in serious consequences for the offender.