

Bullying, Harassment, & Sexting

**Boerne ISD
Secondary Campus Presentation**





In order to participate in today's lesson, you must have a signed permission slip from your parent or guardian. If you have not submitted a signed "opt-in" form, please inform your teacher before this lesson begins.

What is Bullying?



Bullying

Bullying is an intentional act, and its effects are devastating. Although bullying and harassment can take place at almost any age, it most often takes place during junior high and high school years. Bullying has certain markers for it: a power imbalance (perceived or real), an intent to harm, and threat for further aggression.

- Bullying is defined by the **Texas Education Code Section 37.0832** as follows:
 - “Bullying” means a single significant act or a pattern of acts by one or more students directed at another student that exploits an imbalance of power and involves engaging in written or verbal expression, expression through electronic means, or physical conduct that,
 - has the effect or will have the effect of physically harming a student, damaging a student’s property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to the student’s person or of damage to the student’s property;
 - is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive enough that the action or threat creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student;
 - materially and substantially disrupts the educational process or the orderly operation of a classroom or school; or
 - infringes on the rights of the victim at school; and,
 - includes cyber bullying.
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Cyberbullies

Cyberbullies can be an individual or a group of people that prey on others to humiliate, embarrass, and insult them for their own gain (ego, money, or status). Most cyberbullies do not consider themselves bullies and blame their victims for somehow “deserving it.”

- Cyber bullying is defined by the **Texas Education Code Section 37.0832** as follows:
 - bullying that is done through the use of any electronic communication device, including through the use of a cellular or other type of telephone, a computer, a camera, electronic mail, instant messaging, text messaging, social media application, an Internet website, or any other Internet-based communication tool.
- Cyber bullying includes
 - bullying that occurs on or is delivered to school property or to the site of a school sponsored or school-related activity on or off school property;
 - bullying that occurs on a publicly or privately owned school bus or vehicle being used for transportation of students to or from school or a school sponsored or school-related activity; and,
 - cyber bullying that occurs off school property or outside of school sponsored or school-related activity if the cyber bullying
 - interferes with the student's educational opportunities; or,
 - substantially disrupts the orderly operation of a classroom, school, or school sponsored or school-related activity.

Why does bullying happen?

The bully wants to be perceived as:

- Popular
- Smart
- Pretty
- Handsome
- Funny

Types of bullying:

- **Cyber**: Using the internet, social media, or technology to threaten, harass, or hurt others.
- **Verbal**: Using words to bully, such as name calling, insulting or demeaning comments, taunting, threatening, or embarrassing others.
- **Social**: Using social standing to indirectly bully someone, such as purposely leaving one person out of the group, turning others against them, or spreading rumors and hurtful gossip.
- **Physical**: Using physical interactions to bully, such as hitting, kicking, pinching, spitting, tripping, pushing, taking or breaking property, or making rude gestures.

The law now says bullying:

- Includes communication (direct, indirect, cyberbullying fake profiles, photoshopping photos, fake profiles, or photos).
- Includes off-campus actions and communications that that interfere with a student's educational opportunities, or significantly disrupts the school environment.
- No longer has to be a pattern, can be one singular significant act.
- Authorities (law enforcement) may be notified, and all students' parents or guardians must be notified.

What is harassment?



There are criminal consequences for harassment.

In Texas public schools, harassment can include threats to cause harm or bodily injury, sexually intimidating conduct, damaging someone's property, physically confining or restraining someone, or other malicious acts like name-calling that are severe enough to substantially harm a person's physical or emotional health or safety.

The intent of harassment is to:

- Harass
- Annoy
- Alarm
- Abuse
- Torment
- Embarrass
- Offend

Examples of harassment include:

- Threatening harm to another person, family members, or property.
- Calling or sending messages in an annoying, threatening, or abusive manner.
- Requesting an obscene activity, such as inappropriate pictures or video, even if the person being asked has already refused.
- Direct messaging a person to hurt or kill themselves on their Instagram or social media account.

Sexting

Sexting is defined as “the sending of sexually explicit digital images, videos, text messages, or emails, usually by cell phone.

An image may be considered sexually explicit when a body part that is normally covered by a bathing suit, underwear, or a bra is exposed.

Common student beliefs about sexting:

- It is just flirting.
- I can tell if someone is lying.
- No biggie, nothing will happen.
- Do not tell, they will take your phone.
- He loves me, so he will not share it with others.
- If I send it, people will think I am attractive.
- If I do not send it, then he will break up with me.
- Hey if she did not want people to see it, then she would not have sent it.
- Everybody does it. What is the big deal?

What we know about sexting:

- Sexting is a safety issue.
- There is no way to completely delete anything on the internet.
- Once these pictures are shared, they almost always get spread.

The dangers of

SEXTING

What you doing

11/17

Am in the shower

10 PLO PLO PLO

11/17

No wint

Sharing Intimate Images: The Law

PC 21.16 Unlawful Disclosure or Promotion of Intimate Visual Material:

A person commits an offense if without the effective consent of the depicted person and with the intent to harm that person, the person discloses visual material depicting another person with the person's intimate parts exposed

Penalties:

1. Arrestable Offense
2. Confinement in Jail
3. \$10k Fine
4. Criminal Record
5. Mandatory DAEP placement

There is NO DELETE OR ANONYMOUS on the internet!

Every search, comment, purchase, picture, tweet, share, snap, like, and call is recorded in your digital profile and becomes a part of big data.

Everything associated with your name, cell number, email, and IP addresses, is saved forever and cannot be deleted. Even if you “delete” them, they are still stored somewhere on the Internet or in a storage cloud which means it can be found.

Remember:

Comments that you make on social media in junior high or high school may lead to you not getting into the military, being uninvited to a college, or not getting the job you set your heart on.

What can you do when you have knowledge of bullying, harassment, or sexting?



Direct Intervention - includes things like calling out bullying when you see it occurring. For example, “Stacy, do not say that about her. It is not true. If you continue to spread rumors about her, I will be forced to tell someone.”

Indirect Intervention - includes things like using an anonymous reporting system, but it also includes speaking to the person being bullied and saying, “I saw what he did. Do you want me to tell someone?”

Other indirect interventions include sitting with the person being bullied at lunch, walking with them in the hallways, or wherever it is they are being bullied.

You should tell your parent, teacher, or another trusted adult when you see bullying happening to a classmate on social media (cyberbullying or sexting).

Boerne ISD is here to support you!

- We have district bullying & harassment policies.
- Administrators, counselors, and teachers are available when you have a challenge, question, or need to make a report.
- You can report concerns using our P3 reporting system.
- District and campus administrators monitor all online usage through our Bark system, Lightspeed, and Go Guardian.
- Our campus SROs (police) are on campus to keep you safe. They can take reports and also enforce laws when necessary.

Tell your parents!

You should tell your parents every time and any time you feel you are the victim of bullying or harassment. Just because you can “handle” the bullying situation, doesn’t mean you should have to.



