

# HISD Anti-Bully Policy

## 2010-11 School Year

**Bullying is not acceptable behavior at HISD and is considered a Level III act.**

Level III acts include misconduct for which an administrator may suspend the student, place the student in in-school suspension, or, if the administrator finds the Level III misconduct to be serious or persistent, refer the student to a district-level Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP).

The principal or other appropriate administrator makes the disciplinary determination on the basis of the severity of the misconduct. The period of the suspension is limited to three days per occurrence.

Behavior that is not acceptable and is considered a Level II act includes but is not limited to:

- Any verbal abuse or bullying of others, including slurs, name-calling, or derogatory statements to another person because of that person's race, color, religion, national origin, disability, physical/personal appearance, or sexual orientation.
- Bullying is defined as any act or speech that subjects persons to indignity, humiliation, intimidation, physical abuse or threat of physical abuse, social or other isolation, shame, or disgrace.
- Cyberbullying, defined as the use of the Internet, cell phones, or other devices to send, post, or text-message images and material intended to hurt or embarrass another person. This may include, but is not limited to, continuing to send e-mail to someone who has said he or she wants no further contact with the sender; sending or posting threats, sexual remarks, or pejorative labels (i.e., hate speech); ganging up on victims by making them the subject of ridicule in forums and posting false statements as fact intended to humiliate the victim; disclosure of personal data such as the victim's real name, address, or school on Web sites or forums; posing as the victim for the purpose of publishing material in his or her name that defames or ridicules him or her; sending threatening and harassing text, instant messages, or e-mails to the victim; and posting or sending rumors or gossip to

instigate others to dislike and gang up on the target, which is determined to have a material and substantial interference with school activities or with the rights of students and teachers.

- Engaging in threats or other acts of intimidation that interfere with another student's desire or willingness to participate in the educational process
- Indecent/unsolicited sexual proposal/sexual harassment.
- Harassment/dating violence, including threatening to cause harm or bodily injury to another student, engaging sexually intimidating conduct, causing physical damage to the property of another student, subjecting another student to physical confinement or restraint, or maliciously taking any action that substantially harms another student's physical or emotional health
- Engaging in assault not involving bodily injury, which is defined as intentionally or knowingly threatening another with imminent bodily injury
- "Sexting" or using a cell phone or other personal communication device to send text or e-mail messages or possessing text or e-mail messages containing images reasonably interpreted as indecent or sexually suggestive while at school or at a school-related function. In addition to any disciplinary action, phones will be confiscated, and students should be aware that any images suspected to violate criminal laws will be referred to law-enforcement authorities.