



The Children's School · K - 8

The Children's School Bullying Prevention Policy 2022-23

WHEREAS 105 ILCS 5/27- 23.7 requires all public school districts, non-sectarian nonpublic schools, and charter schools in Illinois to develop and implement policies concerning bullying prevention. The policies are required to be updated every two (2) years and filed with the Illinois State Board of Education.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED:

Definition of Bullying

"Bullying" includes "cyber-bullying" and means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or electronically, directed toward a student or students that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following: (1) placing the student or students in reasonable fear of harm to the student's or students' person or property; (2) causing a substantially detrimental effect on the student's or students' physical or mental health; (3) substantially interfering with the student's or students' academic performance; or (4) substantially interfering with the student's or students' ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

Bullying may take various forms, including without limitation one or more of the following: harassment, threats, intimidation, stalking, physical violence, sexual harassment, sexual violence, theft, public humiliation, destruction of property, or retaliation for asserting or alleging an act of bullying. This list is meant to be illustrative and non-exhaustive.

"Cyber-bullying" means bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication, including without limitation any transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data, or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic system, photoelectronic system, or photo-optical system, including without limitation electronic mail, Internet communications, instant messages,

or facsimile communications. "Cyber-bullying" includes the creation of a webpage or weblog in which the creator assumes the identity of another person or the knowing impersonation of another person as the author of posted content or messages if the creation or impersonation creates any of the effects enumerated in the definition of bullying in this Section. "Cyber-bullying" also includes the distribution by electronic means of a communication to more than one person or the posting of material on an electronic medium that may be accessed by one or more persons if the distribution or posting creates any of the effects enumerated in the definition of bullying in this Section.

Bullying is contrary to Illinois State law as well as to the policies of The Children's School.

Nothing in this Section is intended to infringe upon any right to exercise free expression or the free exercise of religion or religiously based views protected under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution or under Section 3 of Article 1 of the Illinois Constitution.

Reporting Procedure

Any student, teacher, administrator, staff member, Board member, or parent/ guardian may report an act of bullying at any time to complaint manager Christina Martin, Director of Curriculum and Instruction (DCI), by delivering a note to the office, emailing cmartin@tcsconnect.org, or calling the school office 708.484.8033. Reports may be made anonymously.

Within the limits imposed by student privacy considerations, TCS will notify the parents/guardians of any students involved in an alleged act of bullying and will provide information about social work services, social-emotional skill building, and restorative measures that are available at TCS.

TCS will investigate any alleged act of bullying within ten (10) school days, involving all appropriate staff members and notifying all administrators. Parents/guardians of students involved in the investigation will be given the opportunity to meet with DCI to discuss the investigation, its findings, and the actions taken to address the reported act of bullying.

Interventions may include:

- Individual or group meetings with school social worker;

- Social-emotional skill-building in classroom or small groups;
- Restorative measures such as a facilitated conversation between students;
- Limits placed on interactions between perpetrator and victim (e.g., placing students in different elective groups or requiring perpetrator to keep distance from victim at Recess);
- Removal of perpetrator from classroom for part or all of the school day;
- Suspension;
- Expulsion.

Reprisal or retaliation against anyone who reports an act of bullying is strictly prohibited. If such reprisal or retaliation occurs, the person doing so will be subject to interventions listed above. Similarly, a person found to have made a false report of bullying as retaliation or as a means of bullying will also be subject to interventions listed above.

Process for Determining Scope of School Authority

The determination of whether an act of bullying falls within TCS' jurisdiction will be made by DCI in consultation with Director of Administration (DA) according to Illinois State law. Please note that instances of cyber bullying that take place outside of school hours and/or on personal electronic devices MAY be within the school's jurisdiction if the bullying causes a substantial disruption to the educational process or orderly operation of a school.

Data will be collected by DCI each year on reports of acts of bullying, including frequency, student, staff and family observations, areas where bullying occurs, types of bullying, bystander interventions, and other information. Such data will be shared with faculty/staff and Board of Directors to determine whether changes are needed to ensure effectiveness of policy.

This policy is consistent with the policies of The Children's School. This policy is based on the engagement of a range of school stakeholders, including students and parents or guardians. This policy is posted on the TCS website and available to students, teachers, staff, parents/guardians, and Board members. The policy will be reviewed and re-evaluated by the TCS Board of Directors every two (2) years.

Approved by the TCS Board of Directors 3/24/22