

Great Falls Public Schools Olweus Bully Prevention Program



What is the GFPS policy on bullying?

Great Falls Public Schools Board Policy

3226 STUDENTS – HAZING/HARASSMENT/INTIMIDATION/BULLYING/MENACING
Hazing/Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying/Menacing

The Board will strive to provide a positive and productive learning and working environment. Hazing, harassment, intimidation, menacing, or bullying by students, staff, or third parties is strictly prohibited in the District and shall not be tolerated.

What are the schools doing to prevent bullying?

Grades K-6 schools utilize the Olweus Bullying Prevention Curriculum.

Grades 7-12 utilize connections time, counselors and other opportunities to incorporate anti-bullying messages and discussions.

What Is the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program?

The Olweus Bullying Prevention Program (OBPP) is the most researched and best-known bullying prevention program available today. With over thirty-five years of research and successful implementation all over the world, OBPP is a whole-school program that has been proven to prevent or reduce bullying throughout a school setting. OBPP is used at the school, classroom, and individual levels and includes methods to reach out to parents and the community for involvement and support. School administrators, teachers, and other staff are primarily responsible for introducing and implementing the program. These efforts are designed to improve peer relations and make the school a safer and more positive place for students to learn and develop.

What are the goals of Olweus Bully Prevention Program?

- To reduce existing bullying problems among students
- To prevent future development of new bullying problems
- To achieve better peer relations at school
- To gain community involvement with the Olweus Program

How is bullying defined?

Bullying is when someone repeatedly and on purpose says or does mean or hurtful things to another person who has a hard time defending himself or herself. This could include physical and non-physical events.

What signs or behaviors are present in someone who is bullying others?

- Single out another person for unfair treatment
- Spread rumors about another person
- Stalk another person
- Tease or abuse others
- Repeatedly act disrespectfully to your teachers and disrupt the learning in your class
- Take part with a group in helping to insult others
- Condone bullying of others by laughing, standing by and watching, or by failing to intervene
- Threaten others
- Write notes or graffiti about another person
- Damage, hide or destroy the property of others

What are students taught to do to prevent bullying?

- If you are part of a bullying group, it is better to change your friendship grouping now rather than go on hurting others.
- Those who bully need help too. That is why it is best that you report bullying so that something will be done about it.
- Always challenge/report bullying behavior.
- Show respect for each other in all interactions.
- Respect your own property and the property of others.
- Contribute to a safe and happy school environment.
- Help other people feel safe and happy.
- Treat others with respect.

What are students taught to do if they are being bullied?

Do not retaliate by using physical or verbal bullying. Do not show fear. If you don't show fear the bully is no longer rewarded and bullying may stop then.

You have to decide what action you take.

Step 1. Ignore it and walk away and let an adult know what has happened. Show that it does not upset you. The harasser is then not rewarded and the harassment may stop.

If it does not stop:

Step 2: Talk to the person bullying you and tell an adult or teacher. Tell her or him in a firm, clear voice that the actions are unwanted. It might stop then.

If the bullying continues:

Step 3: Go to the teacher and report what happened. They can help you decide what to do.

Step 4: Talk to the Principal. Allow this person to take the action they see as necessary.

Remember

It is your right to tell someone if you or your friends are being bullied.
Do not retaliate with physical or verbal abuse.

What should you do if you have more questions regarding bullying or bullying?

Please contact your school administrator, counselor or your child's teacher.