

Bullying Prevention FAQ

Resources for Parents and Schools

There is no doubt that bullying is a present problem in our schools and everyone is concerned about it. The best way to address bullying is to stop it before it starts. Here is information to assist parents and schools in working together to make schools safer and prevent bullying.



What are the state rules for preventing bullying?

- State rule at Section 9 of [6.11.2 NMAC](#) specifically prohibits criminal activity, gang-related activity, sexual harassment, and disruptive conduct inside and within the legal limits of all public schools.
- State rule at [6.12.7 NMAC](#)—Bullying Prevention—defines bullying and provides that each school district, charter school, and state-supported educational institution must develop and implement a local policy that addresses bullying, no later than April 1, 2007. The local policy must provide for absolute prohibition and, among other things, include reporting procedures, consequences, training for staff, and inclusion of this topic in the health curriculum.

Who is responsible for implementing the local bullying policy?

The district superintendent or charter school head administrator is responsible for the overall implementation of the local bullying policy.

Where can I find my district's or school's local bullying prevention policy?

You can usually find local policies on the district's or charter school's website, and/or in student handbooks.

What are consequences for students who bully?

Each district or charter school develops its own student code of conduct. State rule provides that disciplinary consequences for any violation of the school's code of conduct, as well as bullying, are within the authority of the district or charter school. See the state's Student Rights and Responsibilities Act at [6.11.2 NMAC](#).

What if my child is a victim of bullying?

A school must address this problem, not only with the students doing the bullying, but victims of bullying may need possible support, especially if the tension about being bullied is causing severe behavioral and emotional issues. Therefore, if your child is a victim of **frequent** and **persistent** bullying, contact the principal and make a request for a referral to the school's Student Assistance Team (SAT)—the school team responsible for addressing concerns for students who are struggling academically and/or behaviorally. The SAT has the obligation to intervene with this situation, as necessary through an individual Behavioral Intervention Plan (BIP) and incorporate such things as supports a student can use when feeling threatened (ex: talking to a trusted adult, being allowed to go to a safe place) and other BIP supports, such as learning problem-solving and assertiveness skills, and/or providing other social work services.

If your child is receiving special education services, then his or her Individualized Education Program (IEP) team must address this issue at an IEP meeting.

What are bullying prevention resources for schools and parents?

In developing local bullying policies and individual plans for victims of bullying, parents and schools may wish to check the Bully Prevention resources below.

- Stop Bullying www.stopbullying.gov.
- Intervention Central <http://www.interventioncentral.org/behavioral-interventions>
- Kids Health—Dealing with Bullying
http://kidshealth.org/teen/your_mind/problems/bullies.html

How can I get involved as a parent?

Each local board of education must establish a district school health advisory council that consists of parent(s), school food authority personnel, school board member(s), school administrator(s), school staff, student(s), and community member(s). The school health advisory council has the responsibility to make recommendations to the local school board in the development or revision, implementation, and evaluation of the district's wellness policy (which includes dimensions of social, physical, and behavioral health, as well as the safety of staff and students). You may wish to apply to join your local council or give your input to them. The school health advisory council must meet a minimum of two times annually.

What if my child is being bullied by students or adults outside of school?

This is a civil matter. You must work with local law enforcement as this issue is outside the jurisdiction of the district or charter school.