

Shore Collaborative Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan

(In compliance with MA Anti-Bullying Law of 2010)

Staff are *required* to promptly report suspected bullying. Students and others are *expected* to report. False accusations are subject to disciplinary action.

Anonymous reporting must be available for students, families, and others (not staff). No disciplinary action will be taken for an anonymous accusation alone.

Contact information for reporting bullying:

reporttous@shorecollaborative.org

Hotline Voicemail #: 781-349-5726

(where reports may be made anonymously)

Prohibits bullying, cyberbullying, and **“retaliation”** (against person reporting bullying or cooperating with investigation)

“Aggressor” is student or staff who bullies, cyberbullies, or retaliates

“Target” is the student to whom the bullying occurs (“victim” used elsewhere)

“Bullying” is the *repeated* use of written, verbal or electronic expression, act or gesture *directed at a target* that causes:

- a) physical or emotional harm to the target or damage to the target’s property;
- b) places the target in reasonable fear of harm or property damage;
- c) creates a hostile environment for the target;
- d) infringes on the rights of the target and materially and substantially disrupts the education process.

“Cyberbullying” is sending or posting hurtful, embarrassing or threatening text or images—using the Internet, cell phones, or other digital devices. It includes:

- a) Bullying by assuming the identity of, or impersonating another on a web page or blog;
- b) Bullying by electronic distribution to more than one person, or posting of material that is electronically accessible to multiple people.

IEP team must determine if a student’s disability affects their likelihood of bullying or being bullied, and then designate remediation

There must be a **range of responses** to bullying “that balance the need for accountability with the need to teach appropriate behavior”— including skills-building, therapeutic interventions, parental involvement, or referrals for evaluation or services. Any disciplinary actions must account for the students’ disabilities and comply with the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA).

Bullying Report Protocol, Shore Collaborative

1. Reporting about possible bullying starts with the counselor. She documents verbal reports; informs the other involved counselor, and the Clinical and Ed Coordinators.
2. The aggressor's counselor creates a shared online bullying log, and informs staff of it.
3. Bullying investigation is started if there is a second incident toward the same target; parents are informed.
4. Counselor starts the Bullying Incident Report Form.
5. Clinical Coordinator as well as the two involved counselors interview the target and the aggressor, and any other witnesses.
6. Ed Coordinators and others who are involved join the interviewers to make a determination of whether or not there was bullying.
7. If bullying is determined, one of the team notifies the aggressor and both sets of parents. Action steps and/or safety planning takes place.
8. Clinical Coordinator does follow-up interviews with the target and with the aggressor, 1 to 2 weeks later, to determine if bullying is continuing.
9. If bullying is continuing, the aggressor's parents may be called in for a meeting, and additional action steps taken. Once bullying is no longer happening, the completed Bullying Incident Report Form is sent to the Clinical Coordinator and forwarded to the Executive Director.

What Is Bullying?

Deliberate

The intention of one who bullies is to hurt someone.

Repeated

One who bullies often targets the same victim again and again.

Abuse of power

One who bullies chooses victims he or she perceives as less powerful and therefore vulnerable.

What is NOT Bullying?

Any behaviors not intentional, repeatedly targeted toward a specific person, or based on power imbalance:

- Conflict or aggression among equals
- Mutual "non-hurtful" teasing between equals
- Non-targeted acting out, rage episodes, "meltdowns"
- Non-targeted intermittent explosive disorder
- Unintentional hurtful behaviors (including those not understood to be hurtful due to cognitive or developmental disabilities)

Rules about Bullying

- Treat everyone with respect.
- Help everyone feel safe and included.
- Don't bully; bullying is hurtful and against the law.
- If you are getting bullied, you can stand up for yourself, walk away, or ask a friend or adult for help.
- Don't watch, laugh, or join in when someone is being bullied. Stand up for the kid being bullied, if it is safe to do so.
- Report bullying when you see it and when you hear about it.
- Be a good friend.