

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Bullying?

CMS definition is aligned to the Federal Government's definition on the website www.stopbullying.gov

Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior among school aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. Both kids who are bullied and who bully others may have serious, lasting problems.

In order to be considered bullying, the behavior must be aggressive and include:

- An Imbalance of Power: Kids who bully use their power—such as physical strength, access to embarrassing information, or popularity—to control or harm others. Power imbalances can change over time and in different situations, even if they involve the same people.
- Repetition: Bullying behaviors happen more than once or have the potential to happen more than once.

Bullying includes actions such as making threats, spreading rumors, attacking someone physically or verbally, and excluding someone from a group on purpose.

Does CMS have a Bully Prevention Policy?

Yes. The Board prohibits any and all forms of harassment or bullying on Board property or at Board-sanctioned events. It is a violation of Policy JICK, "Bullying," for any student, teacher, administrator, other school personnel, or any third party, including but not limited to those subject to supervision and control of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education, to harass or bully any person on Board property or at Board-sanctioned events. It is also a violation of the policy for any teacher, administrator or other school personnel to tolerate such harassment or bullying of any person by a student, teacher, administrator, other school personnel, or by any third parties, including but not limited to those persons subject to supervision and control of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System.

Who should I contact at the school?

The school's bullying prevention liaison. Each principal will designate a school staff person to serve as the school's bullying prevention liaison, with responsibility for coordinating and monitoring the school's bullying prevention program. Schools may also establish a site-based committee to assist the designated staff person in fulfilling these responsibilities.

Does CMS have an anti-bullying protocol in place?

Yes. CMS uses an award winning multi-faceted approach developed by CMS staff called Making IT Better. It includes that all staff members who interact with students shall apply best practices designed to prevent discipline problems, encourage students' abilities to develop self-discipline, and create a safe and respectful environment. CMS expects students to conduct themselves in a manner in keeping with their levels of development, maturity, and demonstrated capabilities, with a proper regard for the rights and welfare of other students, school staff, volunteers, and contractors.

RESOURCES:

<http://www.makingitbetter-cms.tv>

<http://www.stopbullying.gov/what-you-can-do/parents/index.html>

