

Bullying Resources [Page Name]

At Texas Virtual Academy, we believe every student should have access to a safe learning environment. Our students and their safety are important to us, and bullying is prohibited in both the virtual school environment and during in-person events, such as outings or state testing.

What is Bullying?

Per Section 37.0832, of the TEA Education Code, Bullying involves a pattern or series of actions or one single occurrence of significant proportions. It may be conducted by one person or a group of people and directed toward another student. Bullying may be written or verbal; it may be found electronically, such as on social media; or it may be physical. No matter how the bullying proceeds, it is characterized as an exploitation of unequal power which allows the bully or bullies to control or harm others. An act of bullying:

- has the effect or will have the effect of physically harming a student, damaging a student's property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or damage to the student's property;
- is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that the action or threat creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment for a student;
- interferes with a student's education or substantially disrupts the educational process or the orderly operation of a classroom or school; or
- interferes with a student's education or otherwise infringes on the rights of the victim at school

The definition of bullying includes cyberbullying. "Cyberbullying" means bullying that is done through the use of any electronic communication device, including through the use of a cellular or other type of telephone, a computer, a camera, electronic mail, instant messaging, text messaging, a social media application, an Internet website, or any other Internet-based communication tool.

This applies to:

- bullying that occurs on or is delivered to school property or to the site of a school-related activity on or off school property;
- bullying that occurs on a publicly or privately owned school bus or vehicle being used for transportation of students to or from school-related activity; and
- cyberbullying that occurs off school property or outside of a school-sponsored or school-related event, if the conduct interferes with a student's educational opportunities or substantially disrupts the operations of school, classroom, or school-related activity.

How to Report

If a student believes that he or she has experienced bullying or has witnessed bullying of another student, it is important for the student or parent to notify a teacher, school office staff, the campus director or another district employee as soon as possible to obtain assistance and intervention. To submit an Anonymous Report, available on line [here](#).

Anonymous Bullying Report Questions

1. What is the name of the student being bullied?
2. Who is bullying the above student?
3. Tell us as much as possible about the incident, such as when it happened, where (BBC, D2L, Skype, Outing) it happened, and if it happened more than once.
4. Which school does the BULLIED student attend?

The administration will investigate any allegations of bullying or other related misconduct.

If the results of an investigation indicate that bullying has occurred, the administration will take appropriate action. Disciplinary or other action may be taken even if the conduct did not rise to the level of bullying. The district will also contact the parent of the victim and of the student who was found to have engaged in the bullying. Available counseling options will be provided to the individuals, as well as to any students who have been identified as witnesses to the bullying.

Any retaliation against a student who reports an incident of bullying is prohibited.

If someone needs immediate assistance because they need medical attention or are threatening to harm themselves, call 9-1-1 to reach out to local law enforcement for help.

Students with suicidal thoughts can reach out to their counselors and school administration for help, but they can also reach the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255 as well.

<https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>

Resources

When bullying happens, it can be difficult to know what to do. Reach out to school administration for help. Be vigilant about bullying that may happen outside of school, and consider ways to protect against cyberbullying on social media.

Below are resources with information that can help prevent cyberbullying, educate students on what actions may constitute bullying, or provide resources for parents and families dealing with the aftermath.

StopBullyingNow.com has information about bullying and what parents and youth can do if they are experiencing bullying.

<http://stopbullyingnow.com/>

Tips for staying safe online from the Texas Young Lawyers Association:

<http://www.tyla.org/tyla/index.cfm/resources/educators-students/elementary-school/r-u-safe/>

If you need to report to a social media site about cyberbullying or abusive behavior, you can report the behavior. Below, the link to CyberBullyHelp.com directs you to each social media company's reporting information.

<http://cyberbullyhelp.com/help-center/>

StopBullying.gov also has resources to help identify warning signs for bullying, the effects, and how disabilities or sexual orientation increase the risk for students to be bullied.

<https://www.stopbullying.gov/>