

# Student Discipline, Bullying & Cyber-Bullying

Houston County BOE

## Local Board Policy: Requirements

- **House Bill 250 states that each local board of education shall adopt a policy that prohibits bullying of a student and shall require such prohibition to be included in the student code of conduct for schools in that system.**

# What is Bullying.... in Georgia

1. Any willful attempt or threat to inflict injury on another person, when accompanied by an apparent present ability to do so.
2. Any intentional display of force that would give the victim reason to fear or expect immediate bodily harm.

## What is Bullying (continued)

3. Any intentional written, verbal or physical act, which a reasonable person would perceive as being intended to threaten, harass, or intimidate.

### THAT...

- Causes another person substantial physical harm or visible bodily harm.
- Affects the student's education.
- Is so severe, **persistent**, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment.
- Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

# What is Bullying (continued)

**Bullying also involves acts which occur through the use of electronic communication, whether or not such electronic act originated on school property or with school equipment, if the electronic communication**

is directed specifically at students or school personnel,

is maliciously intended for the purpose of threatening the safety of those specified or substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school, and

creates a reasonable fear of harm to the student's or school personnel's person or property or has a high likelihood of succeeding in that purpose.

• **Electronic communication includes, but is not limited to, any transfer of signs, signals, writings, images, sounds, data, or intelligence of nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photo electronic, or photo optical system.**

A red speech bubble graphic with a white question inside. The bubble has a rectangular top and a pointed bottom. The text is white and centered within the bubble.

## Where may Bullying occur?

- Bullying may occur....
- On school property, school vehicles, designated school bus stops, or at school related functions / activities.
- By use of data or software that is accessed through a computer, computer system, computer network, or other electronic technology.

## Cyber-Bullying & Bullying Off- Campus

- Each Student Code of Conduct shall also contain provisions that address any off-campus behavior that may result in disciplinary action such as
- Inappropriate use of Cell phones
- Inappropriate usage BOE sites and computer communication

# Mandatory Consequence

- Acts of bullying shall be punished by a range of consequences through the progressive discipline process. Such consequences shall include, **at a minimum,** counseling and disciplinary action as appropriate under the circumstances. However, Georgia law mandates that upon a finding by the disciplinary hearing officer, panel or tribunal that a student in **grades 6-12** has committed the offense of bullying for the third time in a school year, the student shall be assigned to an alternative school.



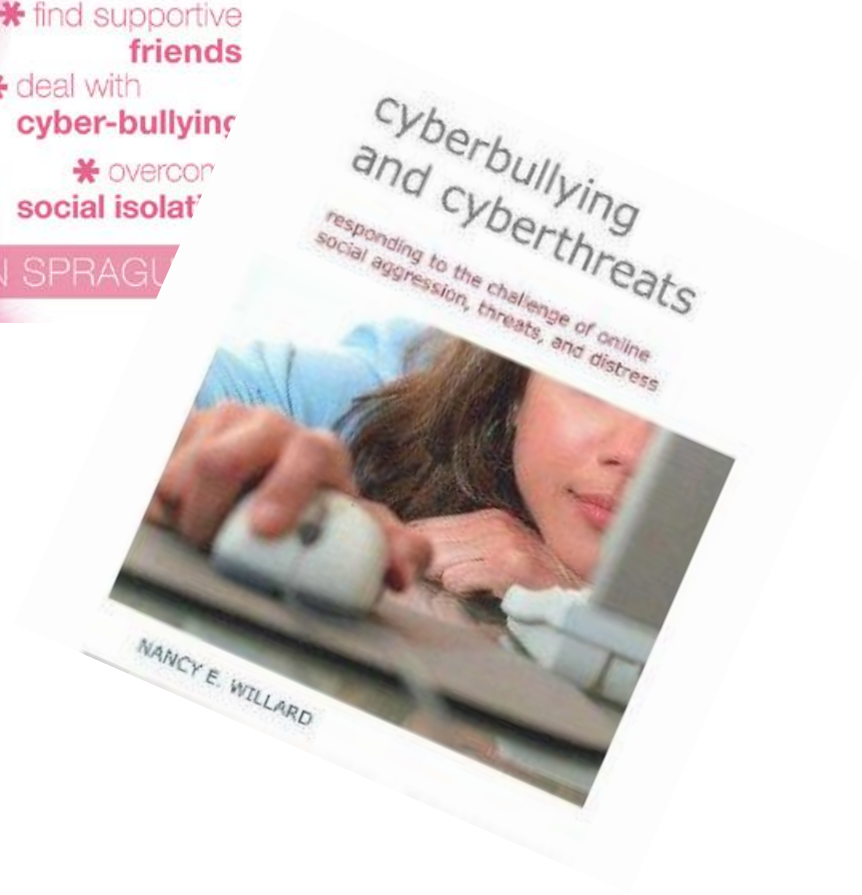
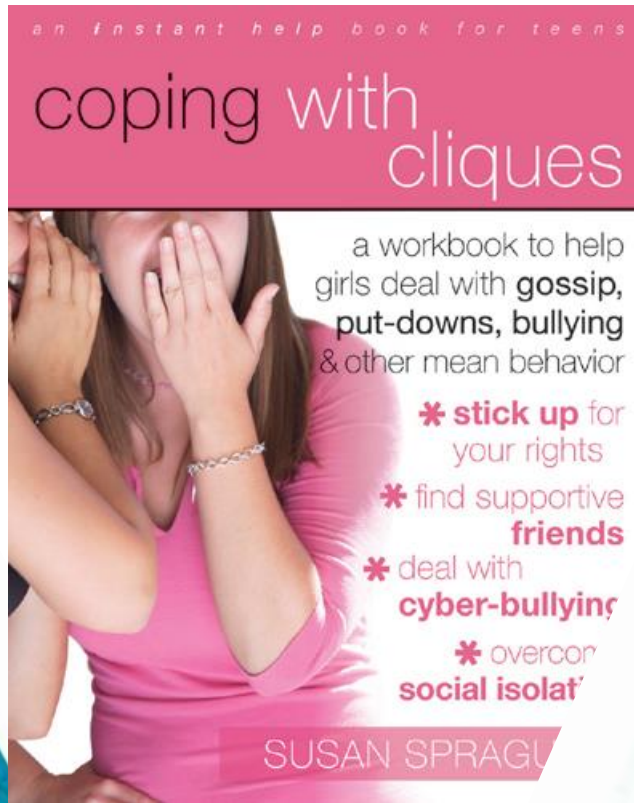
## Notice Obligation

- Each local BOE shall establish and publish in its local board policy a method to notify the parent, guardian, or other person who has control or charge of a student upon a finding by a school administrator that such student has committed an offense of bullying or is a victim of bullying.

## Posting & Handbook Requirements

- Each local BOE shall ensure that students and parents of students are notified of the prohibition against bullying and the penalties for violating the prohibition. This information shall be posted at each school and included in student and parent handbooks.
- Each school has a standard posting to place in the school in a visible location near the front office.

# Resources:



# Additional Internet-based resources

## **SOURCES OF STRENGTH:**

<http://www.sourcesofstrength.org>

## **HEALTHTEACHER.COM:**

<http://www.healthteacher.com/news/Article/1196>

## **BULLYING TOOLKIT FROM GADDOE:**

<http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Curriculum-and-Instruction/Pages/Bullying-Prevention-Toolkit.aspx>

## **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS**

### **SEE RESOURCE LIBRARY**

<http://www.nasponline.org>

## **NO NAME CALLING WEEK: JANUARY 15-18, 2019**

<http://www.nonamecallingweek.org>