

Harassment and Bullying Safety

It is the policy of the Wishram School District to maintain a safe and civil educational environment for all students free from harassment, intimidation, and bullying. Harassment, intimidation, and bullying means any intentional written message or image, including those that are electronically transmitted, a verbal or physical act, when an act physically harms a student or damages the student's property; has the effect to substantially interfere with a student's education or it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment; or has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school. Harassment motivated by any characteristic (race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, mental or physical disability, or other characteristic) is not acceptable. Harassment, intimidation, and bullying in any form are unacceptable.

Harassment, intimidation, and bullying are against District policy and against state and federal law. Students who engage in such activity on school grounds or who engage in such activity off campus and creates disruption of school operations shall be subject to school disciplinary action and possible criminal prosecution.

Electronic transmitted message or images include, but are not limited to, email, instant messaging, blogs, webpages, text messaging, cell phones, digital pictures, images, and videos. Often referred to as "cyberbullying", internet harassment, intimidation, and bullying fall under the District's anti harassment, intimidation, and bullying policy.

The District provides student access to the District network for internet access only after students and parents sign an agreement. Access to District computers is a privilege, not a right.

A student's home and personal internet use can have an impact on the school and on other students. If a student's personal internet use - such as a threatening message to another student or a violent picture - creates a substantial disruption of the school's operations, the student may face school discipline and criminal charges.

Anytime a student feels harassed, intimidated, or bullied whether at school or after receiving a text message, the student should tell their parent, guardian, teacher or a trusted adult and school officials should be notified as soon as possible.

Harassment, intimidation, and bullying in any form is unacceptable

Internet Safety Tips

The internet can be a valuable tool for work, school or personal use. The District closely monitors student computer use during the school day and filters are used to block unsafe internet sites. Below are safety tips that can be used by students here at school, and at home.

For Students

- Never give out any personal information including your name, address, age, phone number, or password
- Never agree to meet someone you have met online without an adult
- Never email pictures of yourself to strangers
- Never respond to a threatening message
- Remember that people online may not be who they say they are
- An email you send to one person can be forwarded to hundreds without you knowing so think twice before sending any message
- Don't send threatening or bullying messages
- Tell a parent, guardian, or trusted adult if you feel don't feel safe

For Parents

- Talk to your child about internet safety
- Establish guidelines for internet use and monitor the time spent on computers
- Learn about parental controls
- Put computers in family areas or the house and not in bedrooms or behind closed doors
- Report offensive or suspicious behavior to your internet provider and local police
- Be very aware of social media websites that have limited controls
- Print out copies of offensive emails for reporting purposes; do not delete the original email even if you have a hard copy so the police can track the source
- Contact the police if your child receives violent threats or obscene messages