



# Jones County High School

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Assistant Principals  
Jeremy Dockery  
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Doug Pieterick  
Tiffany Walker  
Dennis Woolfolk

Lance Rackley  
Principal

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Jones County High School takes the issues of bullying and harassment very seriously. As a school community, we believe that all students can learn in a safe school environment. Therefore, behavior that infringes on the safety of students will not be tolerated. To carry out our duty of providing all students with a safe environment in which to learn, grow and develop, we are committed to continually reviewing and implementing practices that will create a positive learning environment. Please read the content below regarding policies and practices with respect to bullying and harassment.

## **How is bullying defined according to O.C.G.A. 20-2-751.4?**

- a. As used in this Code section, the term "bullying" means an act that is:
  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 such as would give the victim reason to fear or expect immediate bodily harm; or
  3. Any intentional written, verbal, or physical act, which a reasonable person would perceive as being intended to threaten, harass, or intimidate, that:
    - A. Causes another person substantial physical harm within the meaning of Code Section 16-5-23.1 or visible bodily harm as such term is defined in Code Section 16-5-23.1;
    - B. Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education;
    - C. Is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment; or
    - D. Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

The term applies to acts which occur on school property, on school vehicles, at designated bus stops, or at school related functions or activities or by use of data or software that is accessed through a computer, computer system, computer network, or other electronic technology of a local school system. The term also applies to acts of cyberbullying 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 equipment

1. is directed specifically at students or school personnel,
2. is maliciously intended to threaten the safety of those specified or substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school, and
3. creates a reasonable fear of harm to the students' or school personnel's person or property or has a high likelihood of succeeding in that purpose.

For purposes of this Code Section, electronic communication includes but is not limited to any transfer of signs, signals, writings, images, sounds, data or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photo electronic or photo-optical system.

**Bullying vs. Conflict – What is the difference?** Bullying is different from conflict.

- Conflict is disagreement or argument in which both sides express their views.
- Bullying is a negative behavior directed by someone exerting power and control over another person.

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Bullying is done with a goal to hurt, harm, or humiliate. With bullying there is often a power imbalance between those involved, with power defined as elevated social status, being physically larger, or as part of a group against an individual. A bully perceives his or her target as vulnerable in some way and often find satisfaction in harming them.

With normal conflict, children self-monitor their behavior. They read cues to know if lines are crossed and then modify their behavior in response. Children guided by empathy usually realize they have hurt someone and will want to stop their negative behavior. On the other hand, children intending to cause harm and whose behavior goes beyond normal conflict will continue their behavior even when they know it is hurting someone.

**Bullying vs. Harassment – What is the difference?** Bullying and harassment are often used interchangeably when talking about hurtful or harmful behavior. They are very similar, but in terms of definition, there is an important difference.

Bullying and harassment are similar as they are both about:

- power and control
- actions that hurt another person physically and/or emotionally
- imbalance of power between the target and the individual demonstrating the negative behavior
- the target having difficulty stopping the action directed at them

The **distinction** between bullying and harassment is that when the bullying behavior directed at the target is also based on a protected class, that behavior is then defined as harassment. Protected classes include race, color, religion, sex, age, disability, and national origin.

## **Resource**

[www.pacer.org/bullying/resources/info-facts.asp](http://www.pacer.org/bullying/resources/info-facts.asp)

## **Notifying the School About a Bullying Incident**

A parent, guardian, student, or citizen who has a bullying or harassment concern should notify (verbally or in writing) an administrator, school counselor, teacher, bus driver, or other personnel at the school as soon as practicable but preferably within 30 days.

Throughout this school year, we will continue to implement support services and programs to create a safe and healthy learning environment that leads to increasing student achievement and wellbeing. Therefore, we look forward to working with you and helping your child to have a successful school year. Thank you for your assistance and support.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Lance Rackley, Principal  
Jones County High School

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