

**In Georgia, surveys show that almost 30% of students report being bullied.**



**If you feel your child is being bullied, talk to a school administrator about the situation.**

**Remember that the school is responsible for providing your child with a safe learning environment.**

### **Is my child engaging in bullying behavior?**

- Has my child ever been accused of being a bully at school or elsewhere?
- Has my child gotten into trouble for fighting (physically or verbally) with other children at school?
- Does my child become easily frustrated when he does not get his way? Is my child defiant or oppositional?
- Who are my child's friends? How does my child interact with others? Have I witnessed my child with other children? Is she dominant or aggressive?
- What does my child do with spare time? What are my child's hobbies?
- Does my child speak about other children as "stupid" or use other negative terms to describe others? Does my child talk about certain children "deserving" bad things to happen to them or showing little concern for others in bad situations?

From *Bullies and Victims: Information for Parents*, National Association of School Psychologists

***GBI Anonymous Reporting:  
1-877-SAY-STOP***

### **What Every Parent Should Know About Bullying**



*Information on Bullying and its Consequences Provided by the **Houston County School System***



## *What is Bullying?*

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Bullying in Georgia is defined as

- Any willful attempt or threat to inflict injury on another person, when accompanied by an apparent present ability to do so.
- Any intentional display of force that would give the victim reason to fear or expect immediate bodily harm.
- Any intentional written, verbal, or physical act, which a reasonable person would perceive as being intended to threaten, harass, or intimidate.



**Bullying is *severe, persistent, and pervasive* and has the intention to *intimidate or humiliate* the other person.**

## *Bullying and the Law*

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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.

Information regarding Houston County's Bullying Policy and its Student Code of Conduct is available in the Student Handbook and on-line. The handbook is available at each school and can also be accessed through our system website at [www.hcbe.net](http://www.hcbe.net).



## *Bullying and its Consequences*

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Each school will have procedures for the administration to promptly investigate and determine whether bullying has occurred.

Acts of bullying may be punished by a range of consequences through the Houston County progressive discipline process. Consequences shall include, at a minimum:

- Counseling and/or
- School Disciplinary Actions

**Georgia law mandates that a disciplinary hearing or tribunal be held after the third offense for students in grades 6-12. Such cases may result in placement at the alternative school setting and/or other consequences.**

