

Three Types of Bullying

- **Physical:** Harm to another's person or property.
- **Emotional:** Harm to another's self-concept.
- **Relational:** Harm to another through damage (or the threat of damage) to relationships or to feelings of acceptance, friendship or group inclusion.

Included in these types of behavior are nonverbal, verbal and physical behaviors. These behaviors may be perpetrated in person or online by an individual or by a group, and there may be multiple victims.

Three Bodies of Law

The same behavior(s) may violate one or more areas of law:

1. School administrative law prohibiting bullying or harassment and justifying action under the student code of conduct and board policy and regulations;
2. Criminal law (e.g., hate crimes); and:
3. State civil law statutes relating to anti-bullying provisions or even negligence; or under civil rights action if protected classification is involved and discrimination is found.

Each of these bodies of law has its own set of guidelines and parameters. A bullying complaint may come under any or all of these areas of law. In some cases, the school may find that an incident violates local policy, civil and possibly criminal law (although a school does not determine whether criminal acts occurred; that is up to the proper criminal authorities.)