

What is Bullying?

A person is bullied when he or she is exposed, repeatedly and over time, to negative actions on the part of one or more persons, and he or she has difficulty defending himself or herself.

This definition includes three important components:

1. Bullying is an aggressive behavior that involves unwanted, negative actions.
2. Bullying involves a pattern of behavior repeated over time.
3. Bullying involves an imbalance of power or strength.



Student's Role

Students play a crucial role in maintaining a healthy learning environment. All students are expected to:

- Interact with peers in a positive manner
- Refrain from name-calling, put-downs, etc.
- Include students in activities
- Respectfully disagree with peers
- Share with adults concerns with inappropriate behaviors

School's Role

Hamilton County Dept. of Education's focus on maintaining a healthy school climate involves the following:

- Assess areas of strength and weakness through student questionnaires (grades 3rd - 5th)
- Olweus training for staff leadership team preceded by staff training
- ISafe (cyber bullying prevention) training for students
- Visual displays throughout the building of expectations for student interaction
- Resource library for staff
- Lessons on anti-bullying provided by school counselor and teachers

Information in this brochure provided in part by the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program.

*For more information, go to:
www.violencepreventionworks.org
or
www.hcde.org/stars*

Parents' Role



When requesting an investigation into a bullying incident, the following guidelines are recommended:

- Get the facts - objectively without leading questions
- Describe the specific behavior of concern without labeling the behavior as "bullying"
- Model the appropriate behavior with your child
- Encourage open, respectful communication using "I" messages for peer conflict
- Approach the school to build a partnership
- Understand that bullying is more a societal norm which the school personnel will address

Other factors that may indicate assessing inappropriate behaviors may include:

- Relationship between the parties involved
- Emotional impact
- Social interactions at school

Olweus Program Goals

The *Olweus Bullying Prevention Program* is a best practice strategy utilized throughout the TDOE and implemented in our school:

The three main goals of OBPP are:

- Achieving better peer relations at school
- Preventing the development of new bullying problems
- Reducing existing bullying problems among students



ENOUGH ALREADY!

HCDE Zero Tolerance Offenses

According to state and federal law, a student who commits a zero tolerance offense is expelled for one calendar year, unless modified by the Superintendent. This includes offenses on school properties, including buses and at school-sponsored activities. All violations will be reported to local law enforcement officials.

HCDE Zero Tolerance Offenses now include:

Transmitting by an electronic device a credible threat to cause bodily injury or death to another student or school employee and the threat causes actual disruptive activity at the school.



WESTVIEW ELEMENTARY

A BULLY-FREE COMMUNITY

WE WILL NOT BULLY OTHERS.

- I will help students who are bullied.



- I will include students who are left out and who are alone.



- If I know that someone is being bullied, I will tell an adult at school and at home.



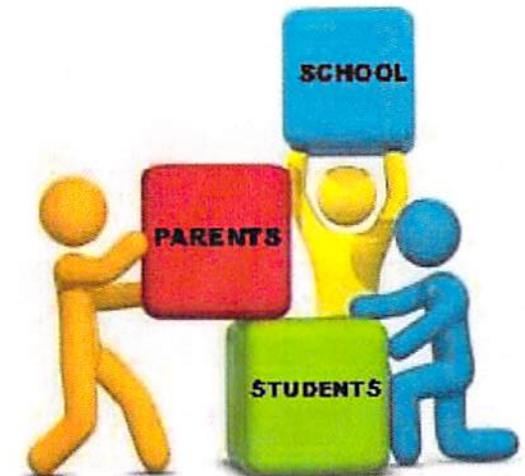
WESTVIEW TEAM

Margo Williams, Principal
Dionne Upton, Asst. Principal
Janielle Walters, School Counselor
Pam Booth
Andrea Delvalle
Renee Greene
Diana Martin
Julianne Thornburg
Jackie Yerbey

Gwen Gregory, STARS Olweus Liaison
Karen Glenn, HCDE Olweus Trainer

Olweus Bullying Prevention

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"Helping students focus for academic success."