



*Regional Institute for Scholastic Excellence*

**Bullying Prevention Policy**

RISE shares the belief with the Illinois General Assembly (105ILCS Section 5/27-23.7) that a safe and civil school environment is necessary for students to learn and achieve and that bullying causes physical psychological and emotion harm to students and interferes with student's ability to learn and participate in school activities.

"Bullying" is defined as any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or electronically, directed toward a student or students that has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following: (1) placing the student or students in reasonable fear of harm to the student's or students' person or property; (2) causing a substantially detrimental effect on the student or students' physical or mental health; (3) substantially interfering with the student's or students' academic performance; or (4) substantially interfering with the student or students' ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

Bullying may take various forms, including but not limited to: harassment, threats, intimidation, stalking, physical violence, sexual harassment, sexual violence, theft, public humiliation, destruction of property, or retaliation for asserting or alleging an act of bullying.

RISE strictly prohibits bullying on the basis of actual or perceived race, colors, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, physical or mental disability, military status, sexual orientation, gender-related identity or expression, unfavorable discharge from military service, association with a person or group with one or more of the aforementioned actual or perceived characteristics, or any other distinguishing characteristic.

No student shall be subjected to bullying (1) during any school-sponsored education program or activity; (2) while in school, on school property, on school buses or other school vehicles, at designated school bus stops waiting for the school bus or at school sponsored or school-sanctioned events or activities; or (3) through the transmission of information from a school computer, a school computer network, or other similar electronic school equipment.

Retaliation against a person who reports bullying is strictly prohibited and retaliation and false accusations of bullying will result in consequences and remedial actions.

RISE shall stop and thoroughly investigate all allegations, reports, or observations of bullying behavior. Any student who observes bullying or is the target or bullying should report the behavior to school personnel. A student found to have engaged in bullying shall be disciplined accordingly which may include, but is not limited to, being dropped from the RISE program and being referred back to the

student's home district. RISE shall take appropriate remedial action to remedy any negative effect on a student who is the target of bullying. RISE shall further take action to eliminate conditions which has been found to foster bullying behavior.

Interventions to address bullying include school social work services, restorative measures, social-emotional skill building, counseling, and community based counseling, as applicable.

RISE has developed a Referral Process for reporting incidences of bullying. The referral process and procedures are attached to this policy. Reporting may be completed anonymously

The Executive Director/Chief Administrative Officer of RISE shall develop and maintain a program which annually educates and informs school personnel, students, and parents/guardians about this policy, the definition and effects of bullying, and bullying prevention. This policy shall be updated every two years and the Executive Director/Chief Administrative Officer of RISE shall file a copy of the updated policy with the Illinois State Board of Education.

This policy does not prevent RISE or any student or school personnel from reporting any actions to local law enforcement agencies or prevent a victim from seeking redress under civil or criminal law. This policy is not intended to infringe upon any right to exercise free expression or the free exercise of religion or religiously based views protected under the First Amendment to the United State Constitution or under Section 3 or 4 of Article 1 of the Illinois Constitution.

Legal Reference: 105 IL CS 5/27-23.7