



## **From the BCSC Student Handbook: The BCSC policy on Bullying**

Bullying is prohibited by Brownsburg Community School Corporation and Indiana Code 20-33-8-0.2. Students who commit any acts of bullying are subject to discipline including but not limited to suspension, expulsion, arrest, and/or prosecution.

Bullying is defined as overt, unwanted, repeated acts or gestures, including verbal or written communications or images transmitted in any manner (including digitally or electronically); physical acts committed; aggression; or any other behaviors committed by a student or group of students against another student with the intent to harass, ridicule, humiliate, intimidate, or harm the targeted student, creating for the targeted student an objectively hostile student environment that places the targeted student in reasonable fear or harm to his or her person or property; has a substantially detrimental effect on the targeted student's physical or mental health; has the effect of substantially interfering with the targeted student's academic performance; or has the effect of substantially interfering with the targeted student's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, or privileges provided by the school.

This policy may be applied, regardless of the physical location in which the bullying behavior occurred, whenever the individual committing the bullying behavior and any of the intended targets of the bullying behavior are students attending school within Brownsburg Community School Corporation and disciplinary action is reasonably necessary to avoid substantial interference with school discipline or prevent an unreasonable threat to the rights of others to a safe and peaceful learning environment. Brownsburg Community School Corporation prohibits bullying through the use of data or computer software that is accessed through any computer, computer system or computer network.

Hazing is defined as any willful act or practice by a member or associate member, directed against a member or associate member, which, with or without intent, is likely to: cause bodily harm or danger, offensive punishment, or disturbing pain, compromise the person's dignity; cause embarrassment or shame in public; cause the person to be the object of malicious amusement or ridicule; cause psychological harm or substantial emotional strain; or impair academic efforts. Bullying and hazing will follow a similar disciplinary track.

Students who engage in bullying behavior shall be subject to a range of punishment with progressive discipline, and parents shall be notified and involved in the educational component of the training as a part of the consequence.

- **CYBERBULLYING (Cyberbullying, Identity Theft, Fraud, Libel)** The act with the intent to demean and/or the repetitive and hostile behavior with the intent to harm others through the use of information and communication technologies and other web-based/online sites are rumors, sending abusive or threatening e-mail/text messages/instant messages or posting to web sites embarrassing photographs or videos of students, staff or other school employees. Such behaviors are prohibited on or immediately adjacent to school grounds, at any school sponsored activity, in any district publication, through the use of any district-owned or operated communication tools, including but not limited to District e-mail accounts and/or computers.
- **LIBEL** is considered a written or oral defamatory statement or representation that conveys an unjustly unfavorable impression. A statement or representation that is published without just cause and tending to expose another to public contempt. Students and parents should be cautioned that creating fraudulent web pages (e.g.: My Space, YouTube, Face Book, or other similar websites) under another person's identity is considered a crime.

*Incidents of bullying should be reported to the administrative or guidance office or to any teacher so that an administrator or guidance counselor can properly investigate the situation.*