

WHAT IS BULLYING?

BULLYING.
NO WAY!

HOW DO I REPORT
BULLYING?

DISTRICT ANTI-BULLYING
INITIATIVE

SCHOOLS'
ANTI-BULLYING PLANS

STUDENT & PARENT
RESOURCES

HCS

Horry County Schools

**Bully Prevention
& Reporting**



What is Bullying?

“Any behavior intended to cause physical, emotional, or social hurt or harm to another person is considered bullying. Although bullying is usually a repetitive behavior, it can occur in a single incident if that incident is either severe or arises from a pattern of behavior.”

~ As defined by S.C. Law and Horry County School policy

“Unwanted, aggressive behavior that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time.”

~ As defined by stopbullying.gov

Horry County Schools is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for students and employees, and part of that is creating a climate where bullying is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. We know that safe and supportive environments help prevent bullying behaviors. We will clearly communicate expectations for student behavior as it relates to bullying, and then we will appropriately deal with those who violate those expectations. Likewise, we will provide appropriate support to those who are victims of bullying.

Our Bully Prevention guide and online resources will help you understand the roles and responsibilities of our District and schools, and what parents and students can do to help. In alignment with the South Carolina Safe School Climate Act, our district and schools take steps to prevent school harassment, intimidation, and bullying.



LEND A HAND.
MAKE A STAND.

How Do I Report Bullying?

Anyone can report bullying. Students who experience bullying, or those who observe bullying, are encouraged to tell an adult who can help. Parents are encouraged to contact the school principal or assistant principal if they have concerns that their child, or another child, has been subjected to bullying in any form.

Horry County Schools takes bullying very seriously and will investigate all reports thoroughly. Appropriate disciplinary action will be taken if an investigation determines that a student, or group of students, have engaged in bullying, regardless of the tactics used or the time of day the incident occurred. Additionally, the District will involve local law enforcement, as needed, when investigative resources are needed and if criminal conduct has occurred.

If parents continue to have concerns after making a report at the school level and after the school has been afforded time to conduct an investigation, a written complaint may be submitted to Horry County Schools' Executive Director of Student Affairs for further review at:

NoBullies@HorryCountySchools.net

Anonymous reports can be made at any time by calling the School Crime Tip Line at:

(843) 915-SROS (7767) or by accessing the reporting tools on the HCS website or mobile app.

If parents feel they are not getting a prompt response to their concerns from the Office of Student Affairs, they may contact the Office of the Ombudsmen at the South Carolina Department of Education for assistance in resolving the concerns. The SCDE's ombudsman does not take sides in the investigation, but rather assist with communication regarding the district's adherence to defined policies and appeal procedures.



**SPEAK OUT
AGAINST BULLYING!**



District Anti-Bullying Initiative

Horry County Schools sets expectations for safe climates for all District schools and adopts the policies and procedures for student awareness, employee training, reporting and investigation, and resolve. The District's Anti-Bullying Initiative includes the following components:

- Provide professional development on defining bullying, preventative measures, disciplinary procedures and consequences when bullying is determined
- Provide a framework for appropriate consequences when bullying has been determined
- Monitor schools' anti-bullying plans
- Encourage schools to participate in anti-bullying activities
- Direct and anonymous reporting options available to students and parents to include the HCS School Crime Tip Line and the HCS Mobile App, currently being redeveloped
- Prompt and responsive monitoring and follow-through on all bullying reports.
- Offer support through behavioral health specialists, mental health professionals, school guidance counselors, and mentors for students who are subject to bullying, or who participate in bullying others.

A white speech bubble with a hand-drawn, chalk-like border. Inside the bubble, the words "BULLYING." and "NOT ON MY WATCH!" are written in a bold, white, hand-drawn font. The bubble is positioned above the heads of three smiling students.

BULLYING.
NOT ON MY WATCH!



Schools' Anti-Bullying Plans

All Horry County schools implement effective anti-bullying plans, which include the following components:

- Highly-visible, committed administrative leadership
- Clearly-defined behavioral expectations that support a safe school climate, in addition to prohibited behaviors that constitute direct and indirect bullying
- Specific, published school rules with consistent sanctions for bullying
- Training, resources and operational guidelines for employees
- Direct and anonymous reporting options available to students and parents which will receive a prompt response by the school administration
- Enhanced supervision and security, with increased focus during times when large numbers of students are transitioning throughout the day and during publicly-attended events
- Responsive support services, including counseling, for victims of bullying
- Proactive behavioral training for bullies
- Ongoing evaluation of bully intervention plans to ensure effectiveness and continued improvement

UNITED
AGAINST BULLIES
& VIOLENCE!



Student Resources:

<https://www.stopbullying.gov/what-is-bullying/index.html> - Stop Bullying.Gov

<http://www.stopbullying.gov/kids/what-you-can-do/index.html> - What Should I do If I am Bullied?

<http://www.pacer.org/bullying/> - National Bullying Center

<http://www.kidpower.org/> - Take Charge of your Safety

Elementary: <https://pacerkidsagainstbullying.org/> **Middle/High:** <https://pacerteensagainstbullying.org/>

Parent Resources:

http://www.violencepreventionworks.org/public/bullying_tips_for_parents.page - Violence Prevention Works! Safer Schools, Safer Community

<http://www.stopbullying.gov/prevention/talking-about-it/index.html> - StopBullying.Gov

<https://www.nasponline.org/resources-and-publications/resources/school-safety-and-crisis/bullying-prevention>

<http://articles.extension.org/pages/30674/bullying:-resources-for-parents> - Bullying Resources for Parents

<http://www.thebullyproject.com/parents> - Parents - The Bully Project

http://www.connectsafely.org/wp-content/uploads/cyberbullying_guide.pdf - A Parent's Guide to Cyber Bullying

<https://ed.sc.gov/districts-schools/school-safety/bullying/> - SC Department of Education

**SPEAK OUT
AGAINST BULLYING!**

HCS INSPIRING
Horry County Schools POSSIBILITIES

335 FOUR MILE ROAD • P.O. BOX 260005 • CONWAY, SC 29528-6005
PHONE (843) 488-6700 • FAX (843) 488-6722

Visit: horrycountyschools.net/stopbullying

Horry County Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, immigrant status, English-speaking status, or any other characteristic protected by applicable federal or S.C. law in its programs or activities. For questions regarding the non-discrimination policies call 843-488-6700, or write Horry County Schools, 335 Four Mile Rd., Conway, SC 29526.