



# The Northbridge Public Schools Town of Northbridge

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## ANTI-BULLYING INFORMATION 2022-2023

In accordance with state legislation prohibiting any form of bullying in the schools, the Northbridge School District has an Anti-Bullying Policy. The policy is also published in the District Student and Family Handbook. Our state approved, mandated Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan is also posted on the website ([www.nps.org](http://www.nps.org)) under the Family and Community Tab. Paper copies are available upon request.

The bullying task force has reviewed and updated the bullying plan, our policy, and our curriculum. We will maintain a zero tolerance for bullying and harassment. All incidents of bullying need to be reported to the principal and investigated, with consequences given as appropriate. Parents will be notified if their child is involved in a bullying incident, either as the aggressor or the target of a bully.

Any parent wishing to file a claim/concern or seeking assistance outside of the district may do so with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education Program Resolution (PRS). That information can be found at: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/psm/>, emails can be sent to [compliance@doe.mass.edu](mailto:compliance@doe.mass.edu) or individuals can call 781-338-3700. Hard copies of this information are also available at the superintendent's office.

We need your help and support in dealing with this important issue. Parents should talk to their child about bullying - what bullying is, the importance of refraining from bullying, and the importance of talking to an adult if bullying is happening. Parents should be aware of changes in their child's behavior that may indicate a bullying problem: withdrawal, fearfulness, anger, refusal to go to school. Parents should contact the school if they suspect a problem and would like a trained counselor to talk to their child.

Anti-bullying curriculum and lessons are taught at each school. We continually add programming and lessons to meet the growing needs of the students regarding this issue. We continue to implement the Anonymous Alert program, located on the websites, so students and parents can anonymously report problems with bullying and harassment. We strongly urge students and parents to report information on bullying incidents to the principal immediately so we can deal with them appropriately.

Every student and parent need to sign the appropriate section of the signature form indicating that you are aware of our bullying policy and plan and will support the school's zero tolerance of bullying behaviors. Please feel free to call your child's school if you have any questions or concerns. We look forward to providing updated information regarding the continued work of the district task force.

*Amy McKinstry*  
Superintendent of Schools

*Excellence - Accountability - Collaboration: "Every Student, Every Classroom, Every Day"*

It is the policy of the Northbridge Public Schools not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, age, or homelessness in its educational programs, services, activities, or employment.

*Always More to Learn. Always Striving to Improve.*

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