



The Northbridge Public Schools

Town of Northbridge

87 Linwood Avenue, Whitinsville, Massachusetts 01588 (508) 234-8156 FAX (508) 234-8469 www.nps.org

Amy McKinstry, Superintendent
Jill Healy, Director of Curriculum

Melissa Walker, Director of Business and Finance
Greg Rosenthal, Director of Pupil Personnel Services

BULLYING AND HARASSMENT INFORMATION – 2019 - 2020

In accordance with state legislation prohibiting any form of bullying in the schools, the Northbridge School District has a Bullying and Harassment Policy. The complete policy and a shorter summary are posted on the district website, as well as on each school website. The policy is also published in all student handbooks. Our state approved, mandated Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan is also posted on the websites. 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.

There is an information from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education for parents: 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/pqa>, emails can be sent to 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.

A bullying curriculum is in place 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

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.