

Weatherford Elementary Schools Bullying Procedures

Weatherford Public Schools recently adopted a Bullying Policy. (A copy of this policy will be supplied to any person upon request to the Principal's office.) Weatherford Public Schools is committed to creating and maintaining a learning environment, which is free from bullying behavior. Schools are meant to be safe places where students can learn, and where educators can work in an atmosphere of care, security and hope.

The State of Oklahoma has enacted the "School Bullying Prevention Act"

As used in the School Bullying Prevention Act:

1. "Harassment, intimidation, and bullying" means any gesture, written or verbal expression, or physical act that a reasonable person should know will harm another student, damage another student's property, place another student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or damage to the student's property, or insult or demean any student or group of students in such a way as to disrupt or interfere with the school's educational mission or the education of any student. "Harassment, intimidation, and bullying" include, but are not limited to, a gesture or written, verbal, or physical act; and
2. "At school" means on school grounds, in school vehicles, at designated school bus stops, at school-sponsored activities, or at school-sanctioned events.

Weatherford Elementary School will emphasize and instruct our students about "Bullying."

- Use the word "bullying" with students to provide an understanding of what is and is not acceptable behavior.
- Observe and be alert to possible "bullying" behavior and victims.
- Listen to students, making them feel comfortable to report incidents.
- Instruct students to report "bullying" incidents to any adult – whether they are on a bus, in the cafeteria, on playground, in the restrooms, in other classes, or in the hallway.
- Educate students to distinguish between tattling and reporting a "bullying" incident.
- Continue to educate students about character qualities such as kindness, courtesy and respect.
- Continue to acknowledge good manners and character qualities.

"Bullying Action Plan":

Teachers will address any acts described in the School Bullying Prevention Act in the following manner:

1. First incident – intervene, state expectations and issuance of a verbal warning.
2. Second incident – intervene, state expectations, verbal warning, parent/guardian contact by phone, mail or e-mail. Removal of privileges.
3. Third incident – intervene, state expectations, verbal warning and referral to administrative staff and counselor. Administrative contact to parent/guardian and administrative disciplinary action.
4. Fourth incident – intervene, state expectations, verbal warning, and referral to administrative staff for parent/guardian contact and disciplinary action.

Each teacher will fill out a Bullying Report Log for any validated major "bullying" incident and refer to office on third incident. Administrative staff and Counselor may be used at any and all times for reinforcement and guidance in each incident. Disciplinary actions will follow guidelines listed in the Elementary Site handbook. Aggressive behavior may and will be reported to the administrative staff and may require immediate attention in other areas of disciplinary action.