

November 17, 2011

Dear Parents/Caregivers,

On July 1, 2011 a new bullying law went into effect called An Act Concerning the Strengthening of School Bullying Laws – Public Act 11-232. The new law broadens the definition to include cyberbullying and acts occurring off school grounds. The new definition of bullying has a two-part test and is summarized below. For the full definition see Public Act 11-232. (www.cga.ct.gov/2011/act/pa.../2011PA-00232-ROOSB-01139-PA.pdf)

1. Bullying is either:
 - The repeated use by one or more students of a written, oral or electronic communication, such as cyberbullying, directed at or referring to another student attending school in the same school district, **or**
 - A physical act or gesture by one or more students repeatedly directed at another student attending school in the same district.

2. When these repeated actions:
 - Cause physical or emotional harm to such student or damage to such student's property. or
 - Place such student in reasonable fear of harm to himself or herself, or damage to his or her property, or
 - Create a hostile environment to such student at school, or
 - Infringe on the rights of such student at school, or
 - Substantially disrupt the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

Bullying includes, but is not limited to, communication, acts and gestures based upon actual or perceived differentiating characteristics, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, socioeconomic status, academic status, physical appearance, or mental, physical, developmental or sensory disability or by association with an individual or group who has or is perceived to have one of these characteristics.

At IDCS bullying will not be tolerated. Please speak to your children about this.

Sincerely,

Anna James, Director

Amy Sheppard, Counselor

