

# Bullying Defined

Louisiana Law (La. R.S. 17:416.13) defines Bullying as a **pattern** of any one or more of the following:

- **Gestures**, including but not limited to obscene gestures and making faces;
- Written, electronic, or verbal **communication**, including but not limited to calling names, threatening harm, taunting, malicious teasing, or spreading untrue rumors
  - Electronic communication includes but is not limited to a communication or image transmitted by e-mail, instant message, text message, blog, social networking website through the use of a telephone, mobile phone, pager, computer, or other electronic device
- **Physical acts**, such as hitting, kicking, pushing, tripping, choking, damaging personal property, or unauthorized use of personal property; and/or
- Repeatedly and purposefully **shunning or excluding** from activities

# Definition – Continued

## The **pattern of behavior**:

- Occurs, or is received by, a student:
  - While on **school** property,
  - at a school-sponsored or school-related function or activity,
  - in any school bus or van,
  - at any designated bus stop, or
  - in any other private vehicle used to transport students to and from schools, or any school-sponsored activity or event

# Definition – Continued

**The pattern of behavior *must have the effect of:***

**Physically harming** the student, *or* placing the student in **reasonable fear** of physical harm, *or*

**Damaging** the student's **property**, *or* placing the student in **reasonable fear** of damage to the student's property, *or*

Be sufficiently **severe, persistent, and pervasive** enough to:

- Create an **intimidating or threatening educational environment**,
- Have the effect of substantially **interfering** with a student's performance in **school**, *or*
- Have the effect of substantially **disrupting** the orderly operation of the **school**

# Then What is *not* Bullying?

Behavioral acts alone are *not* sufficient for a behavior to be considered “bullying” under Louisiana law.

You as an equal participant is not bullying.

Additional factors must also be met for behavior to be considered “bullying,” including:

- ***where*** the behavior occurs or is received,
- the ***effect*** of the behavior on the target/recipient

# What to do if you feel like you are being bullied?

- Fill out an alleged incident form in the main office.
- Sign-up to see Ms. Young or Ms. Licona.

# Cyberbullying

- Bullying through any use of technology.
- On or off school property, which causes a concern at the school.