



JAMES R. WOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Christy Pruski- Principal
320 S. Maple St.
Somonauk, IL 60552

Telephone (815) 498-2338 ext. 322
Fax (815) 498- 9361

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Dear Parents / Guardians:

There have been several changes in Illinois' school laws that have recently been passed that affect our school policies as they relate to bullying. Here is a synopsis of the legislation. This week I will be meeting with our faculty to update them on what this means and how this impacts us as we work with students on a daily basis. We are well equipped to implement these changes through our Character Counts program and the support of our school social workers.

7:20- Harassment of Students Prohibited- *“No person, including District employee or agent, or student, shall harass, intimidate or bully another student based upon a student’s sex, color, race, religion, creed, ancestry, national origin, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, or other protected group status.”* It goes on to state that, *“Complaints of harassment, intimidation or bullying are handled according to the provisions on sexual harassment. The Superintendent shall use reasonable measures to inform staff members and students that the District will not tolerate harassment, intimidation or bullying by including this policy in the appropriate handbooks.”*

All allegations of harassment i.e. an allegation that one student harassed another will be referred to the Building Principal, Assistant Building Principal, or Dean of Students for appropriate action.

7:180- Students: Preventing Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment- *“Bullying, intimidation, and harassment diminish a student’s ability to learn and a school’s ability to educate. Preventing students from engaging in these disruptive behaviors is an important District goal. The Superintendent or designee shall develop and maintain a program that”:*

1. Fully implements and enforces each of the following Board policies:
 - a. 7:190, *Student Discipline.*
 - b. 7:130, *Restrictions on Publications and Written or Electronic Material.*
 - c. 77:20, *Harassment of Students Prohibited.*
2. Examines the appropriate steps to understand and rectify conditions that foster bullying, intimidation, and harassment.
3. Includes bullying prevention and character instruction in all grades in accordance with State law and Board Policy 6:60, *Curriculum Content.*
4. Fully informs staff members of the District’s goal to prevent students from engaging in bullying measures and the measures being used to accomplish it.
5. Encourages all members of the school community, including parents, students, parents, volunteers, and visitors, to report alleged acts of bullying intimidation, harassment, and other acts of actual or threatened violence.

6. Actively involves students' parents/guardians in the remediation of the behavior(s) of concern.
7. Communicates the District's expectation that all students conduct themselves with a proper regard for the rights and welfare of other students.
8. Annually communicates this policy to students and their parents/guardians.
9. Engages in ongoing monitoring that includes collecting and analyzing appropriate data on the nature and extent of bullying in the District's schools and reporting these results to the Board along with recommendations to enhance effectiveness.
10. Complies with State and federal law and is in alignment with Board policies.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate in speaking with me. We have also posted this on our school's website at <http://athena.somonauk.net/grdschool/Grdschhome.htm>

Sincerely,

Christine L. Pruski
Principal