

## Bullying, Harassment, and Other Negative Peer Interaction

The Oregon School District provides support and education to students regarding bullying, harassment, and other negative peer interaction.

**Bullying:** Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior among school aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time.

In order to be considered bullying, the behavior must be aggressive and include:

- An Imbalance of Power: Kids who bully use their power—such as physical strength, access to embarrassing information, or popularity—to control or harm others. Power imbalances can change over time and in different situations, even if they involve the same people.
- Repetition: Bullying behaviors happen more than once or have the potential to happen more than once.

Bullying includes actions such as making threats, spreading rumors, attacking someone physically or verbally, and excluding someone from a group on purpose.

**Harassment:** Unwelcome conduct or communication that either substantially interferes with a student's school performance or that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment at school. This includes the use of ethnic or racial slurs.

All situations should be reported to the schools' complaint managers:

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