



Examples of Problematic Language:

For the purposes of this policy, bullying means the **intentional** harassment, intimidation, humiliation, ridicule, defamation, or threat or incitement of violence by a student against another student or public school employee ...

An Arizona school district Anti-Bullying Policy

A. Bullying is a comprehensive term that describes the **deliberate antagonistic action** or creation of a situation **with the intent of inflicting emotional, physical, or psychological distress** ...

A Los Angeles, CA School District Bulletin on Policy

Bullying is a form of harassment. For the purposes of this policy, bullying is defined as: The **repeated intimidation** of students by the real or threatened infliction of physical, verbal, written, electronically transmitted, or emotional abuse, or through attacks on the property of another...

An Arizona school district Anti-Bullying Policy

I. Definitions

A. "*Bullying*" means **systematically and chronically** inflicting physical hurt or psychological distress on one or more students or employees. It is further defined as: unwanted **purposeful** written, verbal, nonverbal, or physical behavior, including but not limited to any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, by an adult or student, that has the potential to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment or cause long term damage; cause discomfort or humiliation; or **unreasonably interfere** with the individual's school performance or participation, is **carried out repeatedly** and is often characterized by an imbalance of power.

A Florida Anti-Bullying Policy

Suggested Language

Bullying means inflicting physical hurt or psychological distress on one or more students or schools employees. It is further defined as unwanted written, verbal, or physical behavior, including any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture, by an adult or student, that is severe, persistent or pervasive enough to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment; cause discomfort or humiliation; or unreasonably interfere with the individual's school performance or participation ...

Editor's Note:

Notice that in the Suggested Language the attention is on the hurt or distress caused, not the intent of the offender. Also, it is possible for a single event to be classified as bullying if it is severe enough. Therefore, terms that require the questionable act to be repeated, systematic and/or chronic limit the ability to take action under the anti-bullying policy until there is a pattern. Intervention at the early stages of the situation is hampered by such language.

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