

# Bullying And Cyber-bullying Prevention Parent Training



# The New Bullying Law

On May 3, 2010,  
Governor Deval Patrick approved:

**CHAPTER 92 - AN ACT  
RELATIVE TO BULLYING IN  
SCHOOLS.**

# Massachusetts Bullying Law States...

“Bullying is:

The severe or **repeated** use by one or more students of a written, verbal, or electronic expression, or a physical act or gesture, or any combination thereof, directed at another student that has the effect of: (1) causing physical or emotional harm to the other student or damage to the other student’s property; (2) placing the other student in reasonable fear of harm to himself or of damage to his property; (3) creating a hostile environment at school for the other student; (4) infringing on the rights of the other student at school; or (5) materially and substantially disrupting the education process or the orderly operation of a school”

(Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 92, § 5, 2010).

Key point is **REPETITION!**



## Massachusetts Bullying Law further states...

“Cyber-bullying”,

bullying through the use of technology or any electronic communication, which shall include, but shall not be limited to, any transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photo electronic or photo optical system, including, but not limited to, electronic mail, internet communications, instant messages or facsimile communications. Cyber-bullying shall also include (i) the creation of a web page or blog in which the creator assumes the identity of another person or (ii) the knowing impersonation of another person as the author of posted content or messages, if the creation or impersonation creates any of the conditions enumerated in clauses (i) to (v), inclusive, of the definition of bullying. Cyber-bullying shall also include the distribution by electronic means of a communication to more than one person or the posting of material on an electronic medium that may be accessed by one or more persons, if the distribution or posting creates any of the conditions enumerated in clauses (i) to (v), inclusive, of the definition of bullying.

(Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 92, § 5, 2010).



What does this mean for us,  
the faculty, staff, parents and  
students of our school?

# **6 School District Requirements**

(as set forth by the state of MA)

- 1. A professional development plan must be established for all staff.**
- 2. Each district must establish a bullying prevention and intervention plan.**
- 3. A K-12 curriculum on bullying must be adopted for all K-12 students.**
- 4. Reporting requirements for all staff who witness or have knowledge of any bullying incident must be implemented.**
- 5. Investigation and disciplinary policies must be instituted for the act of bullying.**
- 6. When criminal charges may be appropriate, notification of law enforcement is needed.**



# Bullying vs. Conflict

***Bullying and Conflict are not the same***

**Conflict**: When two students quarrel or fight, and they blame each other



# Bullying vs. Conflict (2)

- **Bullying**: One student who is not afraid, and one who is very afraid; there is an imbalance of power.



One student is afraid to blame the other student. Will state they are fine, and that it was just fooling around.



# How/Where do students bully one another online and with smart phones?

- Both at home & in school
- Smart Phones are mini-computers
- Social Networking Sites
  - Facebook ©, MySpace ©
- Sharing personal information
  - Passwords, locker combinations, etc
- “Copy and Paste”
- Individual and Group



# What are some popular websites where bullying occurs?



- Social Networking Sites
  - Facebook ©
    - Honesty Box
    - Formspring
  - MySpace ©
  - Twitter ©
  - Other sites/instant messaging apps include:
    - AIM, Yahoo, Friendster, MyLife, MyYearbook (©)

# What should parents and guardians say to their children?

- Give constant reminders that texts and emails are not “private” – anyone can “copy & paste” and forward, or post online
- Once it is online....it is out there FOREVER
- Passwords should be treated like a toothbrush
- Do **not** text something you would not say to a person
- Do **not** text when angry or emotional → 24 hour rule
- Texts/images can be used in court/legal matters
- “Down Feather Pillow” analogy



# Parental Controls

- Most internet providers and cell phone carriers provide option for Parental Controls
- For example:
  - “Block incoming and outgoing calls and text messages by specifying blocked numbers.
  - Restrict times of day the phone can be used for messaging, browsing and outbound calling.
  - Set limits for the number of text and instant messages allowed per billing cycle.
  - Choose a dollar limit for downloadable purchases (ringtones, games and more).
  - Select the amount of web browsing/data usage allowed per billing cycle.
  - Restrict access to inappropriate content with content filters.”
    - AT&T Smart Limits (<http://www.att.net>)

# Useful Website for Parents

The Massachusetts Aggression Reduction Center

MARC

<http://webhost.bridge.edu/marc>



MARC Parent Specific Resources:

<http://webhost.bridge.edu/marc/parpub.html>

Also, try your own research through an online search engine (i.e. Google, Bing, etc)

# Links to Articles

## Boston Globe articles available online:

- ❖ [http://www.boston.com/news/k\\_12/articles/2010/11/29/expelling\\_accused\\_bullies\\_is\\_not\\_the\\_answer\\_specialists\\_say/?page=full](http://www.boston.com/news/k_12/articles/2010/11/29/expelling_accused_bullies_is_not_the_answer_specialists_say/?page=full)
- ❖ [http://www.boston.com/news/health/articles/2010/11/28/a\\_word\\_of\\_misery\\_left\\_by\\_bullying/?page=full](http://www.boston.com/news/health/articles/2010/11/28/a_word_of_misery_left_by_bullying/?page=full)
- ❖ [http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/ideas/articles/2010/11/28/in\\_side\\_the\\_bullied\\_brain/?page=full](http://www.boston.com/bostonglobe/ideas/articles/2010/11/28/in_side_the_bullied_brain/?page=full)