

Charleston County School District

How to Differentiate Between Bullying and Other Peer Conflicts and Teasing

What is Bullying? Bullying is defined as a deliberate, repeated act with intention to hurt, insult or threaten another person in school, on school grounds, in school vehicles, or at school events. Bullying consists of an imbalance of power.

Friendly Teasing	Hurtful Teasing	Peer Conflicts	Bullying
Equal power	Unequal power	Equal power	Imbalance of power
Neutral	Sensitive topic	Occurs occasionally	Occurs repeatedly
Purpose is to be playful	Purpose is to upset	Accidental	Intentional and serious
Joins relationships	Excludes	Negotiations and options	Seeks to gain power
Funny to both parties	Sarcastic	Withdrawing and options	Victim is vulnerable
		Relationship is valued	No remorse
		Effort to resolve	No effort to resolve
Friendly Teasing: One student comments to another student that he should turn his/her jersey inside out because his favorite team lost last night.	Hurtful Teasing: One girl comments to another girl that she looks chubby in the outfit she is wearing.	Peer Conflicts: Two students have a disagreement on the playground about which one will be the pitcher in kickball.	Bullying: One student repeatedly threatens another student that if he walks down a specific hallway he will get "beat up". Another example is one student repeatedly calling another student a name regarding his sexual orientation.

Three questions that guide CCSD School Officials to determine when a behavior constitutes bullying:

- Was the alleged bullying behaviors repeated and deliberate?
- Did the alleged bullying behaviors inflict harm or suffering?
- Is there an imbalance of real or perceived power between the alleged victim and alleged author of the behavior?

CCSD Prevention Hotline 1-877-250-2790