

## **BULLYING OF STUDENTS IS NOT PERMITTED**

Each school is committed to creating an environment in which students are free from bullying. Students are strongly encouraged to report incidents to the school administration. The school administrator will take appropriate steps to respond quickly and decisively to student reports of bullying. Students may use the proper forms to report incidents of bullying. The Bullying Complaint Form is also located in the guidance department or main office.

### **Q: What is bullying?**

#### **A: Bullying (Policy JFHB)**

Repeated negative behaviors intended to frighten or cause harm. These may include, but are not limited to verbal or written threats or physical harm. Students, individually or as a group, shall not harass or bully others. The following conduct is illustrative of bullying:

- Physical Intimidation, taunting, name-calling, and insults
- Comments regarding the race, gender, religion, physical abilities or characteristics of the targeted person, or associates of the targeted person
- Falsifying statements about other persons

#### **B. Cyber Bullying**

Using information and communication technologies, such as cell phone, text messages, pictures, the internet, e-mail, social networking web sites, defamatory personal web sites, defamatory online personal polling web sites, or similar means, to support deliberate, hostile behavior intended to harm or bully others.

### **Q: What behaviors are considered to be bullying behaviors?**

**A:** Some examples of bullying behaviors include purposely not including people, taunts, threats, gestures, insults, gossip, humiliation, teasing, cyber bullying, horseplay, pushing, tripping, hitting, stealing or destroying property, cursing, and laughing at others based on their appearance, academic or athletic ability, or any other reason. There are many different ways that bullying happens. Sometimes it's just people making other people feel left out. Other times it's hitting, teasing, or threatening to hurt someone. Stealing or bothering someone's lunch or books is bullying, too, and so is laughing at someone because they wear glasses or different kinds of clothes, or because they aren't good at sports. Using the Internet or computers to harm people is another form of bullying. Other harmful behaviors can be bullying, too.

### **Q: How can I report bullying?**

**A:** Any student can report bullying by talking to an administrator or staff member, or completing the Bullying Complaint Form.

Staff members must report your complaint to the school administration. This information should also be shared with your parent(s)/ guardian(s).

### **Q: What should I do if the bullying continues?**

**A:** Report this to a school administrator or staff member immediately. It is also important to tell your parent(s)/guardian(s) that the bullying is continuing. Administrators will take disciplinary action up to and including expulsion if the student accused of bullying attempts to get back at the victim for reporting his/her bullying behavior.

### **Q: Are there immediate actions that I can take if I am bullied?**

**A:** Yes. These actions include:

- Telling the bully very firmly to stop.
- Keep written notes of dates, times, places, witness names and other information about any incident of bullying.
- Talking with a staff member, counselor, administrator or parent about the incident immediately.

**BULLYING BEHAVIORS WILL NOT BE TOLERATED IN APPOMATTOX COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS, ON SCHOOL GROUNDS, OR AT SCHOOL-RELATED ACTIVITIES. ACPS BULLYING/TIPLINE: 434-352-2071**