Henderson County Schools

Bullying

There are numerous challenges that parents, schools and the community face in tackling the issue of bullying. Bullying has the capability of happening without ever having person to person contact. Bullying is conducted verbally, nonverbally, through technological devices, and social media.

There are endless reasons why a bully may bully. The bully will continue to bully unless he/she is stopped. Bullying is a forced imbalance of power and the bully wants another child to feel powerless or helpless. Ignoring the situation often fuels the fire of the bully. The more isolated the victim, the more powerful the bully feels.

It is not always easy to determine if bullying is occurring. Students frequently hesitate to tell an adult. Once an adult has been made aware of a situation, investigation and documentation will need to begin to resolve the situation.

**Our board policy (Bullying/Hazing 9.422) defines bullying as:**

***Bullying refers to any intentional act by a student or groups of students directed against another student to ridicule, humiliate, or intimidate the other student while on school grounds, or at a school sponsored activity, which acts are repeated against the same student over time.***

All of our schools have Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports (PBIS) procedures in place that address unacceptable behaviors of students (which includes bullying). Teachers, counselors, and administrators are all involved in addressing and disciplining bullying behaviors.

The Henderson County Schools (HCS) was recognized as a District Demonstration site in the summer of 2009 by the Kentucky Center for Instructional Discipline (KYCID). Henderson is one of seven District Demonstration Sites across the state that other schools can look to as a model for implementation of all three tiers of prevention and support: universal/primary prevention, secondary prevention and tertiary prevention. HCS started this process of District Wide Implementation of Positive Behavioral Supports through KYCID in May 2008 lead by Jamie Like. After an initial 4 day training period for each school, schools have since received a minimum of 4 hours of training each year.

At the beginning of December 2012 the principals were asked to answer the following questions in regards to bullying:

* What is your process?

Who is bullying reported to?

Who deals with the issue?

When is the principal made aware?

When are parents contacted-both victim and offender?

Are there different actions taken when a parent reports vs. a student report?

* What proactive (PBIS) expectations are in place at your school to deal with bullying?

What trainings have you and/or your staff attended in the last 2 years in regards to bullying?

What, if any, adjustments did you make in your procedures?

What classes (and how many) do teachers or counselors teach that speak specifically to bullying?

How many group sessions are conducted?

* What kind of bullying do you deal with the most?

Verbal? Within school walls? Bus? Electronics?

* What does your discipline data show between August 1 and Nov. 20, 2012?

Attach data

**General Responses:**

Process:

Most schools indicated that they have a bully free pledge, bully report forms, and/or a “box” where students can report “bullies” anonymously. All schools indicate that students are encouraged to report incidents to **any** staff member. Teachers, counselors, and principals are all involved in the discipline consequences.

Proactive:

All schools have a trained PBIS team that meets weekly or monthly to discuss their data and specific students that need support. Generally, the school teams consist of principal, counselor, a teacher, and the Family Resource/Youth Service Center Coordinator. Several schools have implemented check and connect. Check and connect is a monitoring system for students who need frequent “check-ins” throughout the day by an adult in the building. Posters and morning messages are used in a few schools. A series of bullying lessons are taught by guidance counselors and/or through advisory classes. Some schools indicated that counselors, teachers, and FRC/YSC Coordinators have attended additional conferences or workshops.

Kind of Bullying:

All elementary principals indicated that bullying in their school is ***usually*** verbal within the school walls or on the bus. One elementary principal responded that social media is an issue. However, in the secondary schools all schools indicated that bullying occurs verbally as well as through electronics (i.e. texting, social media) which then spills into the school.

Data taken from Infinite Campus August 7, 2012 to December 21, 2012:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| School | Bullying Offenses | Harassment Offenses |
| A B Chandler | 0 | 0 |
| Bend Gate | 7 | 4 |
| Cairo | 2 | 2 |
| East Heights | 3 | 1 |
| Jefferson | 2 | 0 |
| Niagara | 3 | 0 |
| South Heights | 45 | 0 |
| Spottsville | 6 | 0 |
| Central Academy | 3 | 26 |
| North | 5 | 2 |
| South | 10 | 11 |
| HCHS | 2 | 6 |

A survey was given to our students, grades 3- 12, January 2-11, 2012.

One thousand two hundred ninety (1,290) third, fourth, and fifth graders took the survey.

One thousand three hundred twenty one (1,321) sixth, seventh, and eight graders took the survey.