

Safe Schools Reporting Act

The Safe Schools Reporting Act requires all Maryland school systems to report incidents of bullying, harassment, or intimidation against students attending public schools. The law provides for any student, parent/guardian, close adult relative of the student, or a school staff member to report an incident of bullying, harassment, or intimidation that occurs on school property, on a school bus, or at a school sponsored activity.

Bullying, harassment, or intimidation means intentional conduct, including verbal, physical, or written conduct or an intentional electronic communication that creates a hostile educational environment by substantially interfering with a student's educational benefits, opportunities, or performance, or with a student's physical or psychological well-being and is:

- motivated by an actual or a perceived personal characteristic including race, national origin, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, ancestry, physical attributes, socioeconomic status, familial status, or physical or mental ability or disability; or,
- threatening or seriously intimidating; and,
- occurs on school property, at a school activity or event, or on a school bus; or,
- substantially disrupts the orderly operation of a school.

"Electronic communication" means a communication transmitted by means of an electronic device, including a telephone, cellular phone, computer, or pager.

The Montgomery County Public Schools created a Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation Reporting Form (MCPS Form 230-35) that can be downloaded from the MCPS website, <http://www.mcps.k12.md.us/>. Once a school receives a report, an investigation must be completed and documented on the Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation Incident School Investigation Form (MCPS Form 230-36) which is also available from the MCPS Web site.