



Know Your Rights: Bullying laws in GEORGIA

What Is Bullying?

Bullying is defined as "unwanted aggressive behavior among school aged children that involves real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated over time... In order to be defined as bullying, behavior must be aggressive and include:

- An imbalance of power: kids who bully use their power – such as physical strength, access to embarrassing information, or popularity – to control or harm others. Power imbalances can change over time and in different situations, even if they involve the same people.
- Repetition: Bullying behaviors happen more than once or have the potential to happen more than once.

Bullying includes actions such as making threats, spreading rumors, attacking someone physically or verbally, and excluding someone from a group on purpose" (StopBullying.gov).

What Laws Protect Students from Bullying?

There is currently not a federal law against bullying, but there are currently 46 states that have anti-bullying laws. Of those 46 states, 41 have anti-bullying policies in schools (U.S. Department of Education, *Analyses of State Bullying Laws and Policies*, 2011).

Georgia law requires that schools receiving government funding have an anti-bullying policy in place that dictates how bullying should be handled. How situations are dealt with may vary from school to school. If a child is involved in a bullying incident, parents are required to be notified within an appropriate time period. Georgia law also includes cyberbullying in their definition of bullying. Cyberbullying is bullying that takes place via electronic communication or social networking, on or off campus (O.C.G.A § 20-2-751).

For More Info About Bullying:



education.gsu.edu/schoolsafety



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