



SOAR Academy

229 Old Dunn Lane

Conway, SC 29526

Phone: 843-488-7500 Fax: 843-365-0063

Gina Sabol, Principal

Eric Caputo, H.S. Assistant Principal

Justin Shaw, M.S. Assistant Principal

Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying (includes cyber bullying)

Intervention & Prevention Plan

1. Introduction

The SOAR Academy in conjunction with the Horry County School District has a zero tolerance policy for *Harassment*, *Intimidation*, or *Bullying* (includes cyber bullying). The administrative team, faculty and staff are committed to providing our students with a positive learning environment where everyone feels safe, accepted, and valued. The purpose of this plan is to allow SOAR Academy to proactively address the issue of Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying in our school and to provide our students and faculty/staff with appropriate intervention and prevention methods.

Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying is a form of dangerous and disrespectful behavior that will not be permitted or tolerated. Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying may involve a range of misconduct that, based on the severity and context, will warrant a measured response of corrective action and/or discipline. Behaviors that do not rise to the level of Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying, as defined below, still may be subject to intervention and/or discipline under another section of the discipline plan or a discipline policy.

2. Definition

The [Horry County School District Parent Student Handbook](#) 2021-2022 lists bullying, harassment, and intimidation as level II and level III discipline infractions. Policy states that “Harassment, intimidation, or bullying (includes cyber bullying) are – acts which mean a gesture, an electronic communication, or a written, verbal, physical, or sexual act (1) that is reasonably perceived to have the effect of harming a student physically or emotionally or damaging a student’s property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of personal harm or property damage and/or (2) that insults or demeans a student or group of students causing substantial disruption in, or substantial interference with, the orderly operation of the school -- “school” means, in this context, in a classroom, on school premises, on a school bus or other school-related vehicle, at an official school bus stop, at a school-sponsored activity or event whether or not it is held on school premises, or at another program or function where the school is responsible for the student.

aa. Reprisal, retaliation, or false accusation (1) against a person who reports an act of harassment, intimidation, or bullying (includes cyber bullying) or (2) against a victim, witness, or a person with reliable information about an act of harassment, intimidation, or bullying (includes cyber bullying)

bb. Falsely accusing another person of committing an act or acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying (includes cyber bullying)

cc. Other acts of disruptive conduct as determined by the administration.”

Cite: ([HCSD Parent Student Handbook](#))

Examples of Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying Behaviors:

1. Direct Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying includes, but is not limited to, shoving, poking, hitting, slapping, punching, kicking, and taking other’s personal items.
2. Indirect Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying includes, but is not limited to, name-calling, taunting, threats, ridiculing, starting rumors, excluding from the group, extorting, and cyber-Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying. Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying, which is an imbalance of power, intends harms, distresses the victim, and repeated over time, is not teasing. Teasing is making fun in a good-natured way, done by a friend, not intended to be taken seriously, and not meant to be cruel.
3. Include bullying behaviors related to face masks in anti-bullying plan. Examples could be students making fun of other students wearing masks based on the masks appearance.

Cyber bullying is defined as:

“threats or other offensive behavior sent online to a victim or sent or posted online about the victim for others to see. (Wolak, Mitchell, Finkelhor et al., 2006).

- It can take the form of a message on email or IM or a social networking site from someone who is threatening to hurt you or beat you up.
- It might be rumors posted on your profile or spread online for others to see.
- It might be the deletion of you on a friend’s “buddy list” to make you feel left out.
- It could be a profile made by someone pretending to be you.
- Or, someone hacking into your profile and writing comments pretending they’re from you.

In general, cyber bullying is bullying or harassing that happens online. Much of it is similar to what teenagers experience offline in schools, homes, or the community, but has the additional aspect of the Internet.

Cyber bullying occurs in many different places online

including instant messaging, social networking sites (Facebook, Twitter, SnapChat...), email, and chat rooms. The most common place bullying occurs online is over instant messenger, but it also can occur via other new technologies such as text messaging and personal digital assistants (PDAs). “

Cites: (HCSD website: www.horrycountschools.net)

And <http://www.cyberbully411.org/what-is-cyberbullying>)

3. Notice of Prohibition against Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying and Anti-Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying Interventions

The SOAR Academy recognizes that students should have a safe, orderly, civil and positive learning environment and that Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying has no place in and will not be tolerated in our school. The SOAR Academy shall:

(a) Include the prohibition against Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying in the district handbook and in other ways make students and parents aware of the prohibition against Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying, the penalties for engaging in Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying, and the procedures for reporting Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying.

(b) Develop strategies for school faculty/staff to prevent and intervene in Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying.

See Appendix A for prevention and intervention strategies.

4. Reporting, Investigating, and Notifying Parents of Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying Reports

To address Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying, SOAR Academy:

(a) Encourages students to report personally or anonymously to the Google form. If students need to a verbal report they may request a meeting with their administrator or guidance counselor.

Any student, who knowingly makes false accusations regarding Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying, may be subject to disciplinary action.

The SOAR Academy has established the following methods for such reporting:

Anonymous Reporting: A Google Form will be utilized for students to report bullying instances. This form will be located in the student's Advisory Google Classroom, and will be located on the school website under the for Students Tab. For anonymity, the student that is reporting will have the option to include their name or not. The report will be investigated by the school administration and referred to the bullying team as needed.

Personal Reporting: Complete and submit the *Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying Complaint Google Form*. This form is located on the school website and link is located in the Google classrooms for advisory.

(a) Requires teachers and other school staff who witness acts of Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying or receive student reports of Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying to promptly notify an administrator or guidance counselor.

(b) Requires an administrator or guidance counselor to accept and review all reports of Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying, including anonymous reports. If after initial inquiry, an anonymous or oral report appears to warrant further investigation, the school shall promptly continue with an investigation. School administrators shall investigate any written reports.

(c) As with any other disciplinary action, school staff is required to notify the parent or guardian of a student who commits a verified act of Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying of the response of the school staff and consequences that may result from further acts of Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying. To the extent permitted under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act,

(FERPA), requires school staff to notify the parent or guardian of a student who is a target of Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying of the action taken to prevent any further acts of Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying.

5. Data Gathering

The SOAR Academy delegates the responsibility of data collection to:

The Principal or his designee. Data will be collected by the administrative team on the number of reported incidents of Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying and the number of incidents that have been verified and such data will be made available to designated personnel of the Horry County School District.

6. Consequences for Harassment/Bullying/Intimidation dependent upon the severity of each individual incident are as follows:

1st offense-----investigation to include voluntary student statements, witness statements, interviews (victim, accused, and witnesses), and viewing of video footage if warranted; referral to grade level guidance counselor for an individual counseling session to review school and district policy and procedures and guidance on how to identify “bullying” related behaviors, and strategies on how to maintain positive, respectful behaviors; Parent contact/conference.

2nd offense and concurrent offenses-----referral to administrator and parent contact/conference and may also include one or more of the following: In-School Suspension, Out-of-School Suspension, Recommendation for an Evidentiary Expulsion Hearing, and involving law enforcement.

7. Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying Intervention Team

Eric Caputo, Assistant Principal, Co-Chairperson

Justin Shaw, Assistant Principal, Co-Chairperson

Gina Sabol, Principal

Doug Morrison, Guidance Counselor

Latonia Fredrick, Guidance Counselor

Tara Meade, RBHS

Kathleen Smith, Behavior Interventionist

Ryan Gladney, Teacher

The purpose of this team shall be to plan and implement the SOAR Academy Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying Intervention & Prevention Plan. The team will meet regularly to discuss in-services for students, teachers, and parents and to analyze data.

Appendix A: Quick Reference on Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying Prevention & Intervention

Possible Strategies for Prevention

- Assess the school environment.
- Adopt a comprehensive approach that considers the bully, the target and bystanders.
- Provide Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying prevention and intervention training to all faculty and staff through staff meetings and SafeSchools online training.
- Closely supervise all areas of the school.

- Update discipline plan and procedures; adopt all legally required related policies.
- Consistently and fairly enforce standards/rules.
- Establish an anonymous reporting system.
- Encourage parent and community involvement in Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying prevention through numerous parent meetings.
- Use classroom management techniques for response to classroom behavior and when needed, use appropriate discipline.
- As warranted, refer victims and bullies to school counselors and/or administrators.
- Utilize advisor/advisee program to share mini-lessons on Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying with all students.
- Require ALL students in grades 5 – 12 who exhibit Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying behaviors to complete counseling sessions with Behavior Interventionist.
- Utilize multiple means for publicizing information about Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying such as student advisory classes, school web page, and school blog.

Possible Steps for Intervening in Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying Situations

- Intervene immediately to stop the Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying.
- Talk to the bully and the victim separately. If more than one student is involved in Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying behavior, talk to each separately, in quick succession. (Expect bullies to minimize [or] deny their actions.)
- Reassure the victim that everything possible will be done to prevent a recurrence.
- Make other students aware of the consequences of the Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying behavior.
- Phone the parents of both the bully and the victim as soon as possible. If possible, involve the parents in designing a plan of action.
- Continue to monitor the behavior of the bully and the safety of the victim.
- Consult administrators, teachers, and staff members to alert them to the problem and to get a better understanding of it.
- If the situation doesn't change; remove the bully - not the victim - from the classroom.
- Refer parents and students to the Horry County School District web page www.horrycontyschools.net under student services tab for further information on bullying prevention and reporting.