

Bullying

Bullying is a widespread and serious problem that can happen anywhere. It is not a developmental phase an individual has to go through, it is not “just messing around”, and it is not something to grow out of. Bullying can cause serious and lasting harm and is prohibited at HCC and in the State of Kansas. Additionally, bullying may be a precursor to Sexual Assault offenses.

Bullying is any intentional gesture or any intentional written, verbal, electronic or physical act or threat that is sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment for a student or staff member that a reasonable person, under the circumstances, knows or should know will have the effect of: Harming a student or staff member, whether physically or mentally; damaging a student’s or staff member’s property; placing a student or staff member in reasonable fear of harm to the student or staff member, or placing a student or staff member in reasonable fear of damage to the student’s or staff member’s property.

Although definitions of bullying vary, most agree that bullying involves:

- Imbalance of Power: People who bully use power to control or harm and the people being bullied may have a hard time defending themselves.
- Intent to Cause Harm: Actions done by accident are not bullying; the person bullying has a goal to cause harm.
- Repetition: Incidents of bullying happen to the same person over and over by the same person or group.

Bullying can take many forms. Types of bullying include:

- Verbal name calling, hassling someone, degrading comments
- Social spreading rumors, leaving people out on purpose, interfering negatively on other relationships
- Physical hitting, punching, shoving
- Cyber bullying: using the Internet, mobile phones, or other digital technologies to harm others, <http://www.stopbullying.gov/cyberbullying/index.html>