

Students

Bullying

Cyber bullying

CREC's computer network and the Internet, whether accessed on campus or off campus, during or after school hours, may not be used for the purposes of harassment. All forms of harassment by students over the Internet, commonly referred to as cyberbullying, are unacceptable and viewed as a violation of state law and CREC's acceptable computer use policy and regulations.

Malicious use of CREC's computer system to develop programs or to institute practices that harass other users or gain unauthorized access to any entity on the system and/or damage the components of an entity on the network is prohibited. Users are responsible for the appropriateness of the material they transmit over the system. Hate mail, harassment, discriminatory remarks, or other anti-social behaviors are expressly prohibited.

Cyber bullying includes, but is not limited to the following misuses of technology: harassing, teasing, intimidating, threatening, or terrorizing another person by sending or posting inappropriate and hurtful e-mail messages, instant messages, text messages, digital pictures or images, or website postings, including blogs. It is also recognized that the author (poster or sender) of the inappropriate material is often disguised (logged on) as someone else.

Students and community members, who believe they have been the victims of such misuse of technology, as described in this policy, should not erase the offending material from the system. A copy of the material should be printed and brought to the attention of the school administrator or CREC's Director of Technology Services.

The administration shall fully investigate all reports of cyber bullying.

In situations in which the cyber bullying originated from a non-school computer, but brought to the attention of school officials, any disciplinary action shall be based upon whether the conduct is determined to be severely disruptive of the educational process so that it markedly interrupts or severely impedes the day-to-day operations of a school. In addition, such conduct must also be violative of a publicized school policy. Such conduct includes, but is not limited to, threats to kill or hurt a staff member or student.

5131.913 (b)

Students

Bullying

Cyber bullying (continued)

Disciplinary action may include, but is not limited to, the loss of computer privileges, detention, suspension, or expulsion for verified perpetrators of cyber bullying. In addition, when any kind of threat is communicated or when a hate crime is committed, this shall be reported to local law officials, as mandated by state law.

(Cf.0521-Nondiscrimination)

(Cf.5114-Suspension and Expulsion/Due process)

(Cf. 5131-Conduct)

Cf. 5131.21-Threats or Acts of Violence)

(Cf. 5131.8-Off School Grounds Misconduct)

(Cf. 5131.912-Aggressive Behavior)

(Cf. 5131.911-Bullying)

(Cf. 5144-Discipline/Punishment)

(Cf. 5145.5-Nondiscrimination)

(Cf. 5145.5-Sexual Harassment)

(Cf. 5145.51-Peer Sexual Harassment)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

PA 02-119, An Act Concerning Bullying Behavior in
Schools and Concerning the Pledge of Allegiance

*Kyle P. Packer PPA Jane Packer v. Thomaston Board of
Education.* (SC 15862)

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CAPITOL REGION EDUCATION COUNCIL
Hartford, Connecticut