

Critical Questions in Determining a Founded Case of Bullying

It is critical that we all work together to provide a safe learning environment for all. As part of this process it is critical to determine if the reported behavior rises to the level of a founded case or bullying or is an incident of a student(s) behaving inappropriately towards another student(s).

To be clear, we will make every effort to correct and end both. However Bullying has specific criteria established by the State of Iowa. When the behavior meets those components of those criteria the determination will be that there is a **Founded Case of Bullying**. Founded cases are reported to the State of Iowa.

Critical Questions in determining if the reported behavior is a founded case of bullying and will be reported to the State of Iowa.

1. Is the behavior reported unwanted/unwelcome?
2. Is the behavior reported electronic, verbal, physical, or relational aggression?
3. Have there been multiple incidents, on average twice a week for two or more weeks in a row?
4. Does the behavior include electronic public communications that can be viewed an unlimited number of times by an unlimited number of people?
5. Has there been physical injury or the potential for physical injury?
6. Has the behavior allegedly occurred in multiple locations/settings?
7. Is there an imbalance of power or is the target having a difficult time defending themselves and/or getting the behavior stopped?

All other forms of inappropriate behavior will be addressed utilizing board policies and handbook policies dealing with student conduct.