

## Critical Questions in Determining a Founded Case of Bullying

We all must 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 of 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, we have been provided critical questions from the State of Iowa to determine if a reported case of bullying is founded. When the behavior meets those components, the determination will be that there is a **Founded Case of Bullying**. Founded cases are reported to the State of Iowa. **The State of Iowa has modified the definition of bullying. To be defined as bullying the behavior must be repeated and targeted. Single acts will not provide a basis for a founded bullying complaint.**

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? To be defined as bullying the behavior must be repeated and targeted. **Single acts will not provide a basis for a founded bullying complaint.**
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. All inappropriate behavior is taken seriously.