NYC Public Schools

Respect for All



Frequently Asked Questions

Student-to-Student Discrimination, Sexual and Other Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying

1 How can I report bullying and/or sexual harassment?

If your child is being bullied, it is important to tell your school right away so they can take the right steps to make sure that the behavior stops and your child gets support.

Students and families can report bullying and harassment concerns by:

- Submitting a complaint in any language online at **schools.nyc.gov/Safety** or via your NYC Schools Account (NYCSA) at **schoolsaccount.nyc**
- Calling the 311 Bullying Support Line, Monday through Friday, 8AM–6PM at **718-935-2288**
- Emailing the Office of Safety and Youth Development (OSYD) at **RespectforAll@schools.nyc.gov**
- Telling a school staff member or contacting the school's Respect for All liaison
- For sexual or gender-based harassment issues, contact our Title IX coordinator at **718-935-4987** or **Title_IX_Inquiries@schools.nyc.gov**

After reporting, parents/guardians may ask the school administration for the incident number, also known as the Online Occurrence Reporting System (OORS) number.

Parents/guardians must be notified no later than two school days following receipt of a report.

2 Are bullying and harassment reports confidential?

Your school knows your report is sensitive, and will make every effort to keep reports confidential. They will only share information when it is necessary for an investigation or to protect the safety of our students and school community.

Parents/guardians are told about incidents involving their child. Students should talk to their schools if they have concerns about notifying their parent/guardian about a report. Schools can help work with the student and parent/guardian and provide support.

If the report involves a crime, the school must notify the New York Police Department (NYPD).

3 How are complaints investigated?

A staff member at your school will investigate your complaint by:

- Talking separately to staff, students or other individuals who were involved in or witnessed the incident about what happened
  - They may ask about any information or relevant evidence, like videos, text messages, or social media posts
- Asking those who were involved in or witnessed the incident to prepare a written statement

The school will consider all the information it receives during their investigation and make a decision about what happened and how to support your child.

4 How will I be notified of the school's decision after the investigation?

At the conclusion of the investigation, families will be informed of the outcome within ten school days. If needed, students may be referred for support services.

Parents/guardians of the students involved in an incident will only receive information about their own child. The school will not tell families about supports or discipline for another student.

5 What types of supports can my school provide if my child feels unsafe or needs support, and how should I request supports?

You can request support at any time, including before, during, or after an investigation.

There are many ways your school can support your child's individual needs. For example, they may:

- Connect your child with a school counselor, social worker, psychologist, or a mental health professional in the community.
- Help you explore academic supports and adjustments, like a change in classes, lunch/recess, or after-school program schedules.

- Work with your child to build an individual support plan to meet their specific needs, which may include supports such as regular check-ins with specific school staff for a period of time to make sure the behavior stops.

If your child has a disability and you are concerned that an incident is affecting their learning, speak with your child's Individualized Education Program (IEP) team, Section 504 Team, and school administrator.

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6 What resources are available in and out of school if my child needs help?

Your school has a dedicated Respect for All (RFA) Liaison and a Sexual Harassment Prevention (SHP) Liaison to assist students and families affected by bullying or harassment. You can find their names in the "School Contacts and Information" section of your school's listing page at **schoolsearch.schools.nyc**. Their names can also be found on posters displayed around school. If a parent/guardian or student has questions during the investigation, they can ask their RFA or SHP Liaison or principal.

For certain types of incidents of sexual harassment: Title IX —a federal law that prohibits sex-based discrimination in any federally funded school or educational program—requires that the NYCPS Title IX team conduct a separate investigation in addition to the school's investigation. The Title IX investigation is different from the school's investigation. You will be notified if the Title IX team also investigates the incident. For more information about Title IX, visit **schools.nyc.gov/TitleIX**.

If you experience or witness an incident of harassment, discrimination, or bullying, please inform your school's Respect for All Liaisons, principal or a caring adult, who will take the appropriate next steps to file a report.

If you would like to report the incident directly, please use one of the following options:

- Call the Anti-Hate Hotline at **718-935-2889**, Monday through Friday, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Reports can be made anonymously.
- File a report at **nycenet.edu/BullyingReporting** for any student-to-student incident
- File a report at **nycenet.edu/OEO** for any incident involving staff
- You can also email us at **RespectForAll@schools.nyc.gov** or call the P311 Bullying Support Line at **718-935-2288**

If you prefer to talk to someone outside of your school:

- **NYC 988** offers free, confidential, mental health support to New Yorkers of all ages. Speak to a counselor via phone, text, or chat and get access to mental health and substance use services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week:
  - Call or Text: **988**
  - Chat Now: **988lifeline.org/Chat**
  - Find Services: **nyc.gov/988**

Please visit **schools.nyc.gov/RespectForAll** or ask your school directly for more information about the different support options available to your family.

7 How can I get assistance if I need more help than what your school is providing?

If you need more assistance than what your school is providing, you can do any of the following:

- Submit a complaint requesting additional help online at **nycenet.edu/BullyingReporting**
- Talk to your Respect for All Liaison or a caring adult.
- Contact the Respect for All office by emailing **RespectForAll@schools.nyc.gov**
- Fill out the Escalation Staff Assistance Request Form, which can be found online at **schools.nyc.gov/RespectForAll** under the heading "Escalation Assistance." Email the completed form to the Family Support Coordinator for your school district; find their email address at **schools.nyc.gov/Superintendents**.

8 Where can I learn more about NYCPS policies and procedures regarding bullying and harassment incidents?

For more information about NYCPS policies and procedures, please see Chancellor's Regulations **A-831** and **A-832** (**schools.nyc.gov/VolumeA**).