



## Cyberbullying

Board Received: January 25, 2021 Review Date: February 2025

### Policy Statement

The Grand Erie District School Board is committed to providing a positive, safe, and inclusive learning environment which supports the personal dignity and self-esteem of students and is free from cyberbullying. The Grand Erie District School Board does not condone cyberbullying and will respond to these actions using educational interventions and progressive discipline.

### Accountability

1. Frequency of Reports – As needed
2. Criteria for Success – Enhanced student safety  
– Increased opportunity for students to continue their education

### Definition of Cyberbullying

Cyberbullying is the use of information and communication technologies such as e-mail, text messages, instant messaging, personal web sites, and social media - whether on or off school property - to engage in deliberate, typically repeated, and harmful behaviour by an individual or group, which causes emotional distress to an individual student or an identifiable group.

Cyberbullying adversely affects:

1. a student's ability to learn and emotional well-being
2. healthy relationships and the school climate; and
3. a school's ability to educate its students.

The Board recognizes that cyberbullying can be particularly devastating to young people because those who engage in cyberbullying can:

1. hide behind the anonymity that the internet provides;
2. spread their hateful and hurtful messages to a very wide audience with remarkable speed; and
3. disown their actions, as it is often difficult to identify cyberbullies because of anonymity, so they do not fear being punished for their actions.

### References:

- SO10 Bullying Prevention and Intervention