



NIPISSING-PARRY SOUND STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Section Administration - Public	Revised 2022-06-
AP-003 Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan	
General Statement	<p>Nipissing-Parry Sound Student Transportation Services (NPSSTS) is the transportation consortium for the following Member School Boards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Near North District School Board; • Conseil scolaire catholique Franco-Nord; • Nipissing-Parry Sound Catholic District School Board; • Conseil scolaire publique du Nord-Est de l'Ontario. <p>In addition, the NPSSTS has contracts for the delivery of student transportation services with other agencies including First Nations and other School Boards. On behalf of these entities, NPSSTS organizes and administers all home to school student transportation.</p> <p>Student transportation is an integral part of the school experience for the majority of students and is included in the overall school climate. A positive school climate exists when all members of the school community feel safe, included, and accepted and actively promote positive behaviours and interactions.</p> <p>The school bus is an extension of the classroom and as such, student conduct expectations are the same. Principals have authority over student conduct matters and work with drivers to maintain a safe and inclusive environment as part of the positive school environment.</p>
Definitions	<p>For the purposes of these guidelines, the following definitions are taken from section 1 of the <i>Education Act of Ontario</i>:</p> <p>“Bullying”</p> <p>This means aggressive and typically repeated behaviour by a pupil where,</p>



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	<p>(a) the behaviour is intended by the pupil to have the effect of, or the pupil ought to know that the behaviour would be likely to have the effect of,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) causing harm, fear or distress to another individual, including physical, psychological, social or academic harm, harm to the individual's reputation or harm to the individual's property, or (ii) creating a negative environment at a school for another individual, and <p>(b) the behaviour occurs in a context where there is a real or perceived power imbalance between the pupil and the individual based on factors such as size, strength, age, intelligence, peer group power, economic status, social status, religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, family circumstances, gender, gender identity, gender expression, race, disability or the receipt of special education.</p> <p>For the purposes of the definition of "bullying" above, behaviour includes the use of any physical, verbal, electronic, written or other means.</p> <p>"Cyber-bullying"</p> <p>For the purposes of the definition of "bullying" above, bullying includes bullying by electronic means (commonly known as cyber-bullying), including,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) creating a web page or a blog in which the creator assumes the identity of another person; (b) impersonating another person as the author of content or messages posted on the internet; and (c) communicating material electronically to more than one individual or posting material on a website that may be accessed by one or more individuals.
<p>Statement of Responsibility</p>	<p>1. Principals will work with school bus operators and drivers to fulfill their obligations under the Education Act and the board's respective policies regarding bullying prevention and response.</p>



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	<p>2. Operators will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Learn about and share policies and guidelines on bullying prevention and response with drivers; b. Work with schools and school boards to support bullying prevention programs; c. Provide ongoing training and resources to drivers regarding bullying; and d. Work with schools and school boards to collect and assess positive school climates. <p>3. Drivers will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Comply with school boards' bullying prevention and response policies and guidelines; b. When safe and appropriate: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Take immediate action to stop such behaviour when witnessed; and ii. Support students who are victims of such behaviours; c. Report incidents of bullying to the school principal as soon as possible; and d. Work with principals to support disciplinary measures used to combat student behaviour that negatively affects the school climate.
<p>Audit and Improvement</p>	<p>The Operations Manager of the NPSSTS shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include the provisions of these Guidelines in the annual operator audits; • Report the status of the situation found at audit; • Make recommendations for improvements as required; and • Ensure that any recommendations are implemented in a timely fashion.