

RIDGEWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

DISTRICT 234
7500 WEST MONTROSE AVENUE, NORRIDGE, ILL 60706-1196
708-456-4242 FAX 708-456-0342
www.d234.org

:

RE: Anti-Bullying Policy, Response Protocols, and Parental Rights

Dear RHS Parents and Guardians:

At our school, bullying of any kind by anyone is unacceptable. All students should be free from worries about being bullied. This letter provides you with essential information concerning the School District's anti-bullying program and outlines the strict state-mandated protocols we follow to protect our students.

Illinois Statutory Definition of Bullying: Bullying is prohibited on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, physical appearance, socioeconomic status, academic status, pregnancy, parenting status, homelessness, age, marital status, physical or mental disability, military status, sexual orientation, gender-related identity or expression, unfavorable discharge from military service, association with a person or group with these characteristics, or any other distinguishing characteristic.

Bullying means any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including written or electronic communications, directed toward a student that can be reasonably predicted to:

1. Place the student in reasonable fear of harm to their person or property.
2. Cause a substantially detrimental effect on their physical or mental health.
3. Substantially interfere with their academic performance.
4. Substantially interfere with their ability to participate in or benefit from school services, activities, or privileges.

Our Mandated Response Protocols:

In alignment with the Illinois School Code (105 ILCS 5/27-23.7) and Board Policy 7:180, Ridgewood High School operates under strict procedural timelines:

- **24-Hour Parent Notification:** The school will diligently attempt to notify the parents or legal guardians of all students involved in an alleged bullying incident within 24 hours after the administration becomes aware of the report.
- **10-Day Investigation Timeline:** School administrators will initiate and complete an investigation into the alleged bullying incident within 10 school days from the date the report was received.
- **Supportive Measures:** The school will provide both targets and students exhibiting bullying behaviors with access to counseling, social work services, and restorative measures.

How to Report Bullying: If you are aware of an incident of bullying or areas in or around our school building that require increased monitoring, please notify my office immediately. Reports can be submitted verbally, in writing, or anonymously using the [*RHS Report Form for Bullying and School Violence*](#) (7:180-API, E5) available on our school website. Staff members are required to intervene immediately and refer suspected incidents to the administration.

Warning Signs a Student May Be Experiencing Bullying:

- Refusal or extreme reluctance to attend school.
- Sudden loss of friends or withdrawal from social activities.
- Unexplained bruises, cuts, or damaged clothing and possessions.
- Unexplained drops in academic grades or changes in mood, stress, or depression.

If these signs are present, please speak openly with your student and contact us so we can partner together to support them.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Goldflies', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ryan Goldflies

Assistant Principal of Student Affairs

708-456-4242 x1242 | rgoldflies@ridgenet.org