DEFINING CYBERBULLYING

Bullying can occur by one individual or a group of individuals, can be direct or indirect, and can take the following forms:

Physical bullying: Demonstrations of aggression by pushing, kicking, hitting, gesturing, or otherwise invading the physical space of another person in an unwelcome manner or the unwanted tampering with or destruction of another person’s property.

Verbal bullying: Demonstrations of aggression through insults, teasing, cursing, threatening, or otherwise expressing unkind words towards another person.

Relational bullying: Demonstrations of aggression through exclusion, rejection, and isolation to damage a person’s position and relationship with a social group.

Cyberbullying: Willful and repeated harm inflicted through the use of computers, cell phones, and other electronic devices. The following are examples of cyberbullying, when they are intentional, repeated, and result in harm to another:

- Sending text messages over the Internet or using a cell phone.
- Posting text, images, audio, or video to a Web page.
- Sending or posting text, images, audio, or video on or over the Internet or through a cell phone network.
- Sending a picture or video via the Internet or using a cell phone.

Alabama

Schools must develop policies to help with harassment, includes electronic forms of bullying; “punishment shall conform with applicable federal and state disability, antidiscrimination, and education laws and school discipline policies.”

Georgia

H.B. 305 proposed End of Cyberbullying Act. Focuses on behavior which substantially disrupts the orderly operation of the school. These acts refer to: incidents on school property, on school vehicles, at designated school bus stops, or at school related functions or activities or by use of data or software that is accessed through a computer, computer system, computer network, or other electronic technology of a local school system.

South Carolina


Developed Safe School Climate Act which leaves it up to School Districts to decide the actions to take.

Tennessee


Defines cyberbullying as bullying through electronic means.

Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying refers to any act that substantially interferes with a student’s educational benefits, opportunities or performance.

Refers to acts taking place on school grounds, school-sponsored activity, school equipment, or school bus which results in physical harm, emotional distress, or creating hostile educational environment.

Also refers to off campus behavior which produces the same results.

E-mail:
jevines@g.clemson.edu

Cyberbullying can result in discipline whether it occurs on or off campus, irrespective of whether it involves an electronic device at school, at home, or at a third party location, if it results in a substantial disruption of the school learning environment as defined in this policy.

(Hinduja & Patchin, 2009, p. 121)