

Wachusett Regional School District  
**Chocksett Middle School**

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Dear Student and Parent/Guardian:

On May 3, 2010 Governor Patrick signed an *Act Relative to Bullying in Schools* (M.G.L. c.71, §370). This new law prohibits bullying and retaliation in all public and private schools, and requires schools and school districts to take certain steps to address bullying incidents. Parts of the law that are important for students and parents or guardians to know are described in the accompanying information that serves as an amendment to our current student handbook.

The law also requires each school handbook to have age-appropriate definitions for bullying. This definition is designed to assist students understanding of what bullying is and why it is such an important topic to comprehend. The following definition serves as the amendment to our handbook:

**Grades K-5**

*Bullying is unfair and one-sided. Bullying happens when someone keeps hurting, frightening, threatening or leaving someone out of activities on purpose. Bullying can happen at school or away from school. Bullying can happen face to face, behind someone's back, on-line, in a text message, repeated phone calls or a combination of each type.*

*Examples of bullying are: hitting or kicking; name calling or threatening or leaving friends out of activities just to hurt their feelings.*

**Grades 6-8**

*Bullying is the intentional, repeated or consistent picking on or hurting of another person. The hurt can be physical (hitting, tripping, kicking); verbal (name-calling, threatening, spreading rumors) or emotional (purposely excluding someone, manipulating friendships, spreading rumors). Bullying can happen face-to-face, behind someone's back, on-line, through text messaging, repeated phone calls or a combination of each type.*

*Examples of bullying include physical aggression, verbal aggression, malicious rumors/gossip; social exclusions and/or threats of harm or exclusion.*

*Bullying that happens outside of school can still be disciplined at school if a target feels unsafe at school or if school is disrupted due to the bullying behaviors.*

Finally, the District will be developing a Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan that will be submitted to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education by December 31, 2010.

Prior to the submittal of the plan, there will be a public notice and comment period that will provide us with feedback pertaining to our plan.

Thank you for taking time to review this important information with your family.

Sincerely,

Margaret Morgan  
Principal