

## Student Conduct:

School staff, parents, and students are all responsible for creating a culture of positive behavior. Discuss with your child the student conduct information below:

Parents and students must follow the school district's Student Code of Conduct. A frequent form of misconduct is bullying.

### What is bullying?

Unwanted and repeated written, verbal, or physical behavior, including any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture by an adult or student that is severe or pervasive enough to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment, cause discomfort or humiliation, or unreasonably interfere with the individual's school performance or participation.

### Where Does Most Bullying Occur?

As with most harmful behavior among children, in general bullying occurs wherever there is the least structure and adult supervision. Most incidents tend to occur on the playground, in bathrooms, in locker rooms, in cafeterias, in cyberspace, at bus stops, and in the school bus.

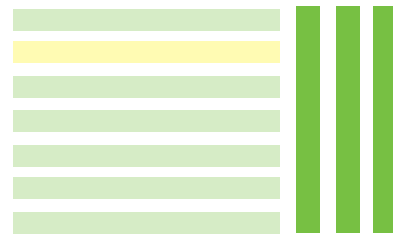
### What Parents and Students Can Do?

#### Tips for Parents:

- ✓ Encourage your child to talk to you. Praise your child for positive communication and behavior.
- ✓ Provide/ensure adequate supervision.
- ✓ Teach your child to be assertive rather than aggressive or violent when confronted by a bully.
- ✓ Verify that consistent messages about rules and safety are practiced in your child's school and staff is trained in bullying prevention.
- ✓ Build a relationship with your child's teachers and administrators.

#### Tips for Students:

- Stay away from bullies.
- Tell an adult.
- Avoid bad situations.
- Make friends.
- If bullied, tell the bully to stop; then walk away.



**Did you know** that research shows that at least half of all bullying can be prevented?



**Did you know** that according to the National Mental Health and Education Center, direct, physical bullying increases in elementary school, peaks in middle school, and declines in high school?



## Protecting Children from Sexual Offenders and Predators – Tips for Parents and Students:

*Florida has the strongest laws in the country to protect its youthful citizens from being abducted. However, parents and children themselves are the first line of defense. Talk to your children about following these rules:*

- Stay away from any unfamiliar person who is trying to trick you or force you to go with him or her.
- Let your parents and other trusted adults know about any suspicious persons or situations.
- Learn to describe people and vehicles.
- Know where to run and how to forcibly resist capture.
- Scream to be seen and to scare a stranger away.
- Stay with a buddy, a group, or parents at the bus stop.
- Report anyone hanging around or passing by regularly.
- Accept a ride only from someone approved by the school.
- Walk or bike only along a route that your parents or the school has determined is safe.
- Lock the door and never tell callers you are home alone.



## For More Information:

If you want more information on staying safe between home and school, check out these websites:

Offices of School Transportation Management  
<http://www.fldoe.org/transportation> & Safe Schools  
(<http://www.firn.edu/doe/besss/sdfs.html>)

Safe Kids USA  
<http://www.usa.safekids.org/>

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children  
[www.missingkids.com](http://www.missingkids.com)  
1-800-LOST (843-5678)

Missing Children Information Clearinghouse  
[www.fdle.state.fl.us](http://www.fdle.state.fl.us)  
1-888-FL-MISSING (356-4774)

Florida Department of Transportation Pedestrian/Bicycle Safety Program  
[http://www.dot.state.fl.us/Safety/ped\\_bike/ped\\_bike.htm](http://www.dot.state.fl.us/Safety/ped_bike/ped_bike.htm)

Safe Routes to School Florida  
[www.srtsfl.org](http://www.srtsfl.org)

Community Traffic Safety Teams (CTSTs)  
<http://www.dot.state.fl.us/safety/CTST/CTST.htm>

Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles (FDHSMV; licensing and teen drivers)  
[www.hsmv.state.fl.us](http://www.hsmv.state.fl.us)

Bullying Prevention  
[www.stopbullyingnow.org](http://www.stopbullyingnow.org)

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention  
<http://www.cdc.gov/nccdphp/dnpa/kidswalk/>

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration  
<http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/>

The Florida Department of Education and Florida's school districts are committed to the safety of Florida's students and schools. Students often walk, bike, or ride to and from school or the bus stop on their own or with parents, guardians, or others. This brochure offers important tips to parents, guardians, and students on how to stay safe, especially when the students are not with school officials who can help protect them. Please discuss these important tips with your children.



Florida Department of Education  
Office of School Transportation Management  
Office of Safe Schools

<sup>1</sup>This information is designed to assist school districts in complying with requirements to provide safety information to parents, guardians, and students (Rule 6A-3.0121, Florida Administrative Code).

