

Does Michael have to report it?

No. The law makes it easier to report bullying and requires the school to keep the report anonymous if they are asked to do that. The law does not require him to report it if he does not want to.

Can friends or other students report bullying?

Yes. The school has to investigate reports from other students. Students can make anonymous reports.

Do teachers have to report it?

Yes. School employees have to make a verbal and written report whenever they learn about bullying.

Does the school have to prevent bullying?

All Connecticut schools must have a plan to keep the school safe, including preventing bullying.

The school has to have a person who investigates bullying reports, keeps records of bullying investigations, and is responsible for preventing, identifying, and responding to bullying.

Can Michael go to a different school if he feels threatened?

If a student does not feel safe at school, the school may be able to help the student transfer. Ask a teacher, guidance counselor, school administrator, or lawyer what to do about this.

If a student is violently injured by another student on school grounds and this was reported to police, the injured student usually has the right to transfer to another school. All schools are required to notify victims of violent crimes of their right to transfer and to have policies about "safety transfers."

Is bullying a crime?

Not always. But some things that count as bullying, like physical attacks and threats, are crimes.

Can a student who is accused of bullying be suspended or expelled?

Yes, but this will not happen every time. Schools can use different options, including suspension or expulsion, to make sure bullying does not happen.

Need Help?

If you are at school, on a school bus, or at a school event, and another student or group of students repeatedly makes fun of you, threatens you, or embarrasses you on purpose, that is bullying. Go to a teacher or other school staff to report this.

Your Legal Rights

Center for Children's Advocacy
speakupteens.org
kidscounsel.org

Call us if you need help:
860-570-5327 and 203-335-0719

This brochure is intended as reference only and should not be interpreted as legal advice. If you need specific information about the law, please call 860-570-5327 or 203-335-0719.

Center for Children's Advocacy
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beef
drama
static
bully

What is the law?

Michael can't take it anymore.

He is tired of kids at school calling him a loser.

He hears them making fun of him and laughing at online posts about him. Last week, a kid at school threatened to hurt him.

Michael doesn't want to snitch, but he hates going to school.

The only person he told was one teacher, but he asked her not to tell anyone.



What can Michael do about the bullying?

- 1. Report it to any school employee.**
He can report the bullying anonymously. This means the school cannot tell anyone who made the report if he asks them to keep it anonymous. The school has to investigate all bullying reports, even if they are anonymous.
- 2. Tell someone at school that he does not feel safe.**
- 3. Ask for a copy of the school bullying policy.**
Or ask the school to give the school policy to his parent/guardian. This will help them know what the school should be doing to protect him.
- 4. Ask his parent/guardian to file a written report with the school.**

School staff must report bullying.

Students involved may never know who reported it.



Is this Bullying?

If a student or group of students repeatedly makes fun of, threatens, or embarrasses another student, the law calls this bullying. If it happens through texting, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook, or any social media, that is cyberbullying.

Here are some things that can count as bullying if another student does them to you more than once:

- Insulting you or someone you care about
- Harassing you sexually, or because of race, nationality, religion, sexual orientation, or disability
- Embarrassing you through pranks or jokes
- Threatening to hurt you
- Asking you to fight

These things count as bullying if they happen in person or online or in social media.

If a student gets in a fight, is that bullying?

Bullying could cause a fight, but a single fight is not always bullying. It has to happen more than once.

What does the school have to do about a bullying report?

The school has to deal with any report of bullying. This is the law.

If bullying happens at school, on a school bus, at a school event, or if it affects a student at school, the school has to:

- Investigate the report
- Ask parents or guardians of all students involved to attend at least one meeting at school
- Develop a plan to stop the bullying and prevent it from happening again

What happens if a student has special needs and is bullied for being different?

The law strongly protects students with disabilities who are bullied because of those disabilities. Schools have to take this type of bullying very seriously.