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## Bullying / Harassment

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In accordance with CT Public Act 11-232 (effective 7/1/2011) and Board policy, **bullying** or **harassment** is defined as the **repeated** use by one or more students of a written, oral, or electronic communication, such as cyberbullying, directed at or referring to another student, or a **physical act or gesture** by one or more students repeatedly directed at another student that: (1) causes **physical or emotional harm** to the student or damage to the student's property; or (2) places the student in **reasonable fear of harm** to himself or herself, or of damage to his or her property; or (3) creates a **hostile environment** at school for such student; or (4) **infringes on the rights** of the student at school; or (5) **substantially disrupts the education process** or orderly operation of a school.

**Bullying** shall include, but not be limited to, a written, oral, or electronic communications, or physical act or gesture based on any actual or perceived differentiating characteristics, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, socioeconomic status, academic status, physical appearance, or mental, physical, developmental, or sensory disability, or by association with an individual or group who has or is perceived to have one or more of such characteristics.

**Cyber-bullying** includes any act of bullying through the use of the Internet, interactive and digital technologies, cellular mobile telephone or other mobile electronic devices, or any electronic communications including social networking sites.

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## Sexting

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**Sexting** is the act of sending sexually explicit messages or photos electronically, primarily between cell phones.

The sending, sharing, viewing, or possessing of pictures, e-mails or other material of a sexual nature in electronic or any other form on a cell phone or other electronic device is prohibited in the school setting.

In the case of sexting:

- Any student who photographs himself or herself and transmits the pictures or transmits inappropriate material in violation of this policy.
- Any student who receives a photograph or inappropriate material from another person and brings the cell phone, computer, or electronic device to school on which that material is located is in violation of this policy.
- Any student who receives a photograph or inappropriate material from another person and transmits it to a third party is in violation of this policy.

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## Hazing

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**Hazing** is a term used to describe various activities involving harassment, abuse, or humiliation used as a way of initiating a person into a team or group.

Hazing of any athletic team member or any student will result in immediate and severe disciplinary action including immediate dismissal from athletics – as well as any and all other consequences listed in this document.

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## Consequences

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**Bullying behavior or harassment by any student in the Bolton Public Schools is strictly prohibited at school; at school-sponsored or school-related activities, whether on or off school grounds; at a school bus stop or on a school bus; or through the use of an electronic device or an electronic mobile device.**

**Bullying outside of the school setting is prohibited as it creates a hostile school environment for the victim, infringes on the right of the victim at school, and substantially disrupts the education process.**

➤ **Police involvement**

All verified cases of bullying or harassment whether or not using a computer or cell phone is involved may be reported to the police for documentation and possible prosecution.

➤ **Social Probation**

- removal from sports teams
- removal from all honor societies
- removal from after school activities including student council
- prohibited from school events including dances and sporting events

➤ **Denial of school computer privileges**

Any student who uses a school computer to bully or harass a student will have all school computer privileges revoked.

➤ **School suspension – including expulsion from school**

Prompt disciplinary action may be taken against the perpetrator, consistent with his/her rights of due process.

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## Computer Usage

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### Computer Privileges

The use of the Bolton Public Schools' computer system is a privilege. Computer privileges may be revoked for any infraction of any of the school's computer lab or equipment rules. Students who are taking courses in which computer access is required may still have computer privileges suspended or revoked for infraction of rules. Students who intentionally commit acts that jeopardize the viability of the school's computer network may be subject to the full limit of disciplinary consequences up to and including police involvement and expulsion from school. Parents/students may be assessed compensatory charges for intentional acts of damage.

### User Rights

Users should be aware that personal files, documents, and pictures are not private on the district computer system. Routine maintenance and monitoring of the system may lead to discovery that users have violated portions of this policy and agreement, the school's code of conduct, or the law. A search may be conducted at any time if there is reasonable suspicion that users have violated portions of this policy and agreement, the school's code of conduct, or the law.



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## Contacts

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Students may anonymously report acts of bullying to any school employee. The district prohibits discrimination and retaliation against an individual who reports, or assists in the investigation of, an act of bullying.

**Mr. Joseph Maselli**

Principal, Bolton High School  
869-643-2768

**Mrs. Mary Grande**

Principal, Bolton Center School  
860-643-2411

**Mr. Anthony Gonzalez**

Assistant Principal, Bolton Center School  
860-643-2411

**Ms. Cynthia Martin**

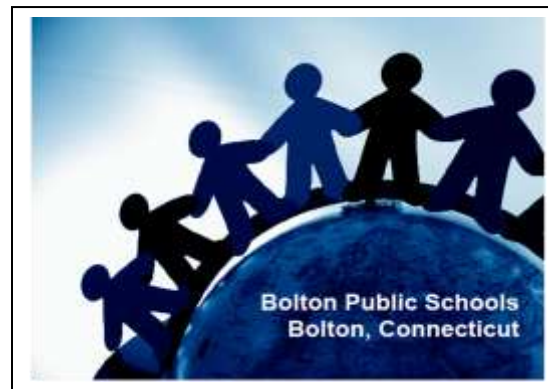
Director of Pupil Services  
Title IX Coordinator  
860-643-1569

**Mrs. Claudia Danna**

Director of Curriculum and Instruction  
860-643-2768

**Mr. Paul K. Smith**

Superintendent of Schools  
860-643-1569



[www.boltonpublicschools.com](http://www.boltonpublicschools.com)



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## Student Behavioral Expectations

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Students in the town of Bolton and Columbia attend our public schools, Bolton High School & Bolton Center School, not only to improve their minds and to gain knowledge and skills, but also to build character. The goal of a Bolton education is to teach our youth to be innovative and truthful, insightful, and respectful. To be part of a learning community, all students must be respectful of others and honest with others in every aspect of their lives.

Without respect and integrity, an education is rendered meaningless and undermines the entire community. That is why the Bolton Public Schools will not tolerate any bullying or harassment of other students, staff, or community members using any form of communication, including, but not limited to computers and cell phones, whether on or off campus.

### *Bolton 2020 Vision*



*The Bolton Public Schools community collaborates to encourage learners to become ethical citizens who are innovative, influential leaders in their world.*