Bullying is the most common form of violence in our society.

Legislation across the United States addresses bullying. Most recently in Louisiana, House Bill No. 1458 was introduced, passed and became Act No. 755.

Bullying is the act of one person, or a group of people, intentionally doing things to hurt someone else by performing one or more of the following actions:

1. Verbal Bullying

Insulting, belittling comments and name-calling; hurtful teasing, threatening forcing someone to do things; making degrading remarks about a person’s race, religion, ethnicity, ability or sexual orientation

2. Social Bullying/Isolation

Playing mean or embarrassing jokes or tricks; saying mean things about someone-spreading rumors; never letting someone join in activities; excluding others to make you feel important

3. Physical Bullying

Hitting, kicking, pushing, shoving and spitting; knocking a person books/belongings out of arms; blocking a path, tripping someone and obscene gestures; running into someone deliberately

4. Cyber Bullying
Posting another person’s picture, in a group or an individual photo, on any form of technology without that person’s permission is illegal.

**LOUISIANA HOUSE BILL 1259 READS:** “Cyber bullying is the transmission of any electronic textual, visual, written or oral communication with the malicious and willful intent to coerce, abuse, torment or intimidate a person under the age of eighteen.”

**CYBER BULLYING IS A CRIME IN THE STATE OF LOUISIANA.**

UP Elementary has a zero tolerance policy on bullying. Students are encouraged to report any incidents that involve bullying. It is the responsibility of every student to reduce the risk of violence by demonstrating mutual respect and a caring attitude toward one another.

An individual is bullied whenever he/she is exposed repeatedly to negative actions on the part of others, which involves harm to that individual’s person, self-esteem and/or peer acceptance.

Any intentional gesture whether written or verbal, or a physical act that a reasonable person under the circumstances should know will have the effect of harming a student, damaging his/her property or placing a student in reasonable fear will result in disciplinary action.

It is the final authority of the principal to determine the level of disciplinary action based upon the facts.

**RULES AGAINST BULLYING:**

1. We **WILL NOT** bully others.

2. We **WILL** help students who are bullied.

3. We **WILL** include students who are easily left out.

4. When we know somebody is being bullied, we **WILL** tell an adult at school and an adult at Home.

—The Road to College Starts in Kindergarten.
Policy on Hazing

UP Elementary seeks to promote a safe environment where students may participate in activities and organizations without compromising their health, safety or welfare. Hazing of any kind is prohibited. Hazing is a very serious offense. Hazing is any intentional, knowing or reckless act committed by a student, alone or in concert with others, directed against another student which:

1. Endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student.
2. Substantially or seriously demeans, degrades or embarrasses a student.

Students may be subject to serious disciplinary action including recommendation for expulsion should that student/s:

1. Engage in hazing.
2. Solicit, encourage, direct, aid or attempt to aid another student engaging in hazing.
3. Intentionally or knowingly permit hazing to occur.
4. Have firsthand knowledge of the planning of a specific hazing incident involving a student OR has firsthand knowledge that a specific hazing incident has occurred, and knowingly fails to report that knowledge to the appropriate school personnel.

Due Process & Expulsions

Level 3 infractions are incidents that occur on school property or grounds, on school....
transportation, or at school activities that severely interfere with anyone’s safety and learning, are of a threatening or harmful nature, and/or are legal violations. Students may be expelled for Level 3 infractions. As noted by the asterisks (*) below, there are several offenses that require an expulsion in certain circumstances. Students may not be expelled for offenses that are not listed in Level 3.

**Tier One Offenses: Expellable for Two or More Semesters**

3.01 Drugs: Possessing, distributing, selling, giving, loaning, or using controlled dangerous substance governed by the Uniform Controlled Dangerous substances Law*, or any prescription drug not prescribed to the accused student, or any chemical substance that affects the central nervous system and produces stimulant, depressant, euphoric, or hallucinogenic effects to the mind or body.*

3.02 Weapons: Carrying or possessing a firearm**

3.03 Weapons: Carrying or possessing a knife with a blade of 2 inches or longer***

3.04 Weapons: Carrying or possessing any instrument the purpose of which is lethal force

3.05 Sexual assault or engaging in sexually explicit acts

3.06 Battery on a school staff member

3.07 Battery on another individual that causes serious injury

3.08 Battery on another person that involves use of a weapon or other dangerous implement

**Tier Two Offenses: Expellable for Up to Two Semesters**

3.09 Robbery of any individual on school property or at any activity of which the school has jurisdiction
3.10 Burglary of school property or the personal property of individuals valued at $500 or more on school property or at any activity of which the school has jurisdiction

3.11 Well-documented and/or on-going commission of acts that threaten the safety or well-being of oneself or others including the bullying of students or school staff as outlined in LA Act 861 of 2012

3.12 Possession of dangerous implements, or the use/display of any instrument appearing dangerous

3.13 Conviction of a felony or conviction of an offense which, had it been committed by an adult, would have constituted a felony

   3.14 Well-documented and/or on-going use of any electronic device to repeatedly threaten, intimidate, or bully another scholar or to share sexually explicit material.

—The Road to College Starts in Kindergarten.