

## Safe School Act & Bully Policy

RISE Prep is committed to a safe, caring, friendly environment free from harassment, intimidation, or bullying/cyber bullying. RPMA has adopted the Rhode Island Statewide Bullying Policy, also known as the Safe School Act. Scholars need a safe environment to learn and grow within and bullying, in any form, will not be tolerated at our school.

*Bullying* means the use by one or more students of a written, verbal or electronic expression or a physical act or gesture or any combination thereof directed at a student that:

- Causes physical or emotional harm to the student or damage to the student's property;
- Places the student in reasonable fear of harm to himself/herself or of damage to his/her property;
- Creates an intimidating, threatening, hostile, or abusive educational environment for the student;
- Infringes on the rights of the student to participate in school activities; or
- Materially and substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

The expression, physical act or gesture may include, but is not limited to, an incident or incidents that may be reasonably perceived as being motivated by characteristics such as the following: race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression or mental, physical, or sensory disability, intellectual ability or by any other distinguishing characteristic. Bullying most often occurs as repeated behavior and often is not a single incident between the bullying offender(s) and the bullying victim(s).

Bullying and retaliation against any person associated with a report of bullying or the investigation thereof is prohibited at RISE Prep (§§16191 and 16192). School staff will take all reasonable measures to prevent bullying at school. Such measures may include professional development and prevention activities, family workshops, and scholar social groups.

All RISE Prep staff members will model respectful behavior to one another other, to scholars, and to school visitors and families at all times. Abusive or humiliating language or demeanor is not productive and will not be tolerated. Scholars and their families are expected to demonstrate respectful behavior to other families, RPMA staff members, and other scholars at all times.