

From: Matt N <[REDACTED]@outlook.com>  
Sent: Monday, December 9, 2024 9:12 AM  
To: Linda Carnall <Linda.Carnall@stjohns.k12.fl.us>; Alexandra Pillay <Alexandra.Pillay@stjohns.k12.fl.us>; Sarah Wiggins <Sarah.Wiggins@stjohns.k12.fl.us>; Jennifer Tippins <jennifertippins@stjohns.k12.fl.us>; Chris Gallagher <Chris.Gallagher@stjohns.k12.fl.us>; James Stoner <James.Stoner@stjohns.k12.fl.us>; Amanda Gumble <Amanda.Gumble@stjohns.k12.fl.us>; Amy Borie <Amy.Borie@stjohns.k12.fl.us>  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Subject: [REDACTED] - IMMEDIATE ACTION - Racist Bullying by teacher at Swiss Point Middle School.

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I would like to start this email by saying this is just one in a series of events that has been detrimental to my son's schooling, and completely unacceptable behavior that has shown discrimination and bullying through slander and racism. This is, in fact, how bullying is defined in both the district handbook and on the website:

-Page 27 of handbook

**Bullying and Harassment**  
Students and employees should be provided a safe and secure learning and work environment, free from bullying, harassment, and cyber-bullying of any kind. The complete text of the School Board's bullying and harassment policy is set forth in School Board Rule 3.21. Bullying and harassment are Level III violations of the Code of Conduct and are major infractions. Bullying or harassment will not be tolerated and disciplinary action will be taken. In addition to school consequences, criminal charges may be filed. This policy shall be interpreted and applied consistently with all applicable state and federal laws. Conduct that constitutes bullying or harassment, as defined herein, is prohibited in all educational environments.

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Level III:

Level III infractions are major acts of misconduct which the School Board has determined constitute a serious breach of conduct. They include repeated misconduct acts from Level II, serious disruptions of school order and threats to the health, safety and property of others. A student who commits a Level III offense may also be subject to criminal proceedings.

Subsection on bullying:

C. Bullying -unwanted and repeated written, verbal, or physical behavior, or use of digital technologies that include any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture by an adult or student that is severe or pervasive enough to create

C. Bullying -unwanted and repeated written, verbal, or physical behavior, or use of digital technologies that include 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; causes discomfort or humiliation; creates an existence of an imbalance of power; or unreasonably interferes with the individual's school performance or participation.

From the district site:

**Definition of Bullying**

For behaviors to be labeled as bullying, all three of the following components must be present:

- The behavior is repeated
- The behavior is intentional
- There is an imbalance of power

Meeting the School District Definition of Bullying

The school level investigation will determine if all three components are present and the behavior meets the school district's definition of bullying written in our policy. The St. Johns County School District's policy prohibiting bullying and harassment defines bullying as systematically and chronically inflicting physical hurt or psychological distress on one or more students. See policy above for the full definition.

**Reporting Bullying and Harassment Incidents**

Incidents of bullying or harassment can be reported as follows:

- In person at the school
- In writing to the school
- Online by using the "Report Bullying" button above
- By phone to the school

All of these conditions have been met with the incident that has happened as described in "parent outline". I have also enclosed the completed bullying form.

As this crime was committed against multiple minors, [REDACTED] 12 and [REDACTED] who is around the same age; by a much older teacher creating a major imbalance of power and breaking not only this rule but state and federal laws associated with hate speech and slander as multiple external parties were contacted prior to any "investigation" stating ultimately what resulted in lies by Mr. Stoner.

I expect an IMMEDIATE apology to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], as well as calls to my family and [REDACTED], to try and "explain" how something this erroneous could have happened.

I am also going to push for criminal charges against Mr. Stoner. The simple fact of this whole matter is that this man stated to me and staff, in the presence of others on both sides; that he saw Noah Ross, my son; do something that was discovered to be "unfounded". He slandered my son in an effort to remove Noah from his class and punish him for not being a "good" student.

This is disgusting behavior by a lazy and foolish person who should not be in any way responsible for or around children or their education in any way. What kind of representative is he for St. Johns county schools? No reasonable adult would lie and cause psychological damage to children in order to gain peace, or favor, or whatever his end goal was. If a child lied, slandered and bullied, in this way he/she would certainly be punished, and I would expect St. Johns county would hold adult representatives to higher standards.

Matthew Ross

Father of Noah Ross  
(904)377-2638

From: Alexandra Pillay <Alexandra.Pillay@stjohns.k12.fl.us>

Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2024 9:52 AM

To: Matthew [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@outlook.com>; Linda Carnall <Linda.Carnall@stjohns.k12.fl.us>; Sarah Wiggins <Sarah.Wiggins@stjohns.k12.fl.us>; Jennifer Tippins <jennifertippins@stjohns.k12.fl.us>; Chris Gallagher <Chris.Gallagher@stjohns.k12.fl.us>; James Stoner <James.Stoner@stjohns.k12.fl.us>;

Amanda Gumble <Amanda.Gumble@stjohns.k12.fl.us>; Amy Borie <Amy.Borie@stjohns.k12.fl.us>

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: [REDACTED] - IMMEDIATE ACTION - Racist Bullying by teacher at Swiss Point Middle School.

Good morning Mr. [REDACTED]

I am glad that we got the chance to speak yesterday morning. I absolutely understand your concern about the situation as well as your frustration over how it was presented to you and the parent of the other student involved.

As we discussed, during our investigation of the incident, we found that Mr. Stoner himself did not witness the incident, but it was his student aide who said that she saw [REDACTED] write the word on the board. When we asked other students in the class, no one else saw [REDACTED] write anything on the board. For that reason, it became an unfounded report as we have no evidence to show that Noah was in fact the one that wrote on the board. We have also worked with you and [REDACTED] to update [REDACTED] schedule and he is now in ICT 7th period and no longer in Mr. Stoner's intensive Math class - this should basically eliminate any interaction between [REDACTED] and Mr. Stoner.

We also discussed our protocol for teachers when reporting student incidents and that teachers should be reporting these incidents to the deans office and should not be calling the parents themselves directly - this allows us time to properly investigate the incident and make a determination on what happened and limits any misinformation. We are working with our staff on this, as well as some other areas, to ensure that this doesn't happen again.

Dean Gallagher has also followed up with you and with [REDACTED] parents as well so everyone has been informed of the unfounded determination in the investigation. We will also be speaking to the student aide about the statement made to [REDACTED]

Please let me know if I have missed anything or if you have any other questions I can help answer for you and your family.



From: Matt [REDACTED]@outlook.com  
Sent: Wednesday, December 18, 2024 10:24 AM  
To: Alexandra Pillay <Alexandra.Pillay@stjohns.k12.fl.us>; Linda Carnall <Linda.Carnall@stjohns.k12.fl.us>; Sarah Wiggins <Sarah.Wiggins@stjohns.k12.fl.us>; Jennifer Tippins <Jennifer.Tippins@stjohns.k12.fl.us>; Chris Gallagher <Chris.Gallagher@stjohns.k12.fl.us>; James Stoner <James.Stoner@stjohns.k12.fl.us>; Amanda Gumble <Amanda.Gumble@stjohns.k12.fl.us>; Amy Borie <Amy.Borie@stjohns.k12.fl.us>; Beverly Slough <Beverly.Slough@stjohns.k12.fl.us>; Tim Forson <Tim.Forson@stjohns.k12.fl.us>; Tanner-Dean, Angela <Angela.Tanner-Dean@ed.gov>; McClafflin, Jennifer <Jennifer.McClafflin@ed.gov>; Commissioner@fldoe.org  
Subject: RE: [REDACTED] IMMEDIATE ACTION - Racist Bullying by teacher at Swiss Point Middle School.

Some people who received this message don't often get email from [REDACTED]@ed.gov. Learn why this is important  
**CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.**

All,  
Here we are another week past and not a word or any action from your side.  
Just to be clear:  
1. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] haven't been apologized to. This is DISGUSTING and absolutely mind blowing. How in the world do you expect my son to either respect or give a damn about anything any teacher or administrator has to say when they are liars and bullies? I mean come on this is 101 stuff and the fact it hasn't been addressed is beyond concerning. When you're a lying piece of crap and get caught, I'd think step 1 would be to make sure the children the "adult teacher" brought into his completely stupid and idiotic little plan were taken care of. HE sure "took care of it quick" when he called myself and Jayden's dad, so come on, what in the hell is going on in that place?  
2. The only "changes" that have happened are:  
a. [REDACTED] moving to another class  
b. [REDACTED] father wants him to switch schools.  
This is the acceptable solution you have collectively come up with after such a horrible hate crime. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade student aide who lied and the teacher who lied are still just cruising along as normal with no repercussions...  
So just to be completely clear, so there is no misunderstanding or confusion: this is just "done"? Investigation done and it was unfounded but that's cool, we'll just go on ahead from there and have a nice day?  
I was hoping for help with this but I see it is exactly what I implied; it's about your asses and screw the kids and the families you work for and are paid by. No one gets punished except for the 2 kids who were attacked by this adult predator. He can prey on any child in that school and all that happens is exactly what he wanted. What's to stop him from doing this to other innocent people?  
I would have to say I really am a bit shocked and saddened this is how an "A" rated district would handle something so gross and egregious with ABSOLUTELY NO QUESTION about what happened.  
The crazy thing is you guys appear to be violating multiple state and federal laws in the meantime... Including the individuals with disabilities education act and hate crime laws...  
If we dont hear a response or get some kind of communication from ANYONE by end of week with some sort of update we will be forced to acquire legal council and start a public campaign to bring recognition to this incredibly disgusting hate crime thats also taking advantage of a disabled minor.  
The simple fact that the person who ultimately "pulled the trigger" is now trying to blame an 8<sup>th</sup> grader is almost laughable if it wasn't so sad.  
Yes Im still pissed, no I wont "let it go",  
Matthew [REDACTED]  
Father of [REDACTED]

MJ McClafflin, Jennifer <Jennifer.McClafflin@ed.gov>  
To: You  
Cc: Tanner-Dean, Angela  
Thu 12/19/2024 1:01 PM

Dear Mr. [REDACTED],

Thank you for contacting the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS), within the United States Department of Education (Department). OSEP is responsible for administering the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This Federal program provides financial assistance to State educational agencies (SEAs), and through SEAs to local educational agencies (LEAs), to help meet the unique educational needs of eligible children with one or more of the specified disabilities as defined at 34 C.F.R. § 300.8 of the Federal regulations implementing Part B of IDEA (Part B). You can access the Part B regulations at <https://sites.ed.gov/idea/>.

This email is a reply to your December 18, 2024, email in which you included Jennifer McClafflin and Angela Tanner-Dean of the OSEP on correspondence related to an incident that occurred at your son's middle school that you described as bullying. From your correspondence, it is unclear if your son has an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or if the issue you referenced falls under the jurisdiction of the IDEA; however, matters related to retaliation, discrimination, and bullying may be brought to the attention of the Department's Office for Civil Rights (OCR). The Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504 addresses protections against such actions for students with disabilities. Section 504 is a Federal law designed to protect the rights of individuals with disabilities in programs and activities that receive Federal financial assistance from the Department. OCR enforces Section 504 in public elementary and secondary schools. For more information about how OCR provides protections for individuals with disabilities, you may visit <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/hovvto.html>.

If this Office can be of any assistance regarding questions related to the IDEA, please do not hesitate to contact me, OSEP's Customer Service Specialist for Florida, at (202) 900-8619 or email at [jennifer.mcclafflin@ed.gov](mailto:jennifer.mcclafflin@ed.gov).

Regards,  
Jennifer McClafflin  
Customer Service Specialist  
Monitoring and State Improvement Planning Division  
Office of Special Education Program (OSEP)  
Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS)  
U.S. Department of Education  
202-900-8619  
[jennifer.mcclafflin@ed.gov](mailto:jennifer.mcclafflin@ed.gov)  
<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/hovvto.html>  
<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/hovvto.html>

MJ McClafflin, Jennifer <Jennifer.McClafflin@ed.gov>  
To: You  
Cc: Tanner-Dean, Angela  
Thu 12/19/2024 1:01 PM

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Regards,  
Jennifer McClafflin  
Customer Service Specialist  
Monitoring and State Improvement Planning Division  
Office of Special Education Program (OSEP)  
Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS)  
U.S. Department of Education  
202-900-8619  
[jennifer.mcclafflin@ed.gov](mailto:jennifer.mcclafflin@ed.gov)  
<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/hovvto.html>  
<https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/hovvto.html>

LC Linda Carnall <Linda.Carnall@stjohns.k12.fl.us>  
To: You; Alexandra Pillay; Sarah Wiggins; Jennifer Tippins; Chris Gallagher; James Stoner; Amanda Gumble; Amy Borie; Beverly Slough; Tim Forson; Paul Abbattinozzi; David Simpkins  
Cc: [REDACTED]  
Wed 12/18/2024 3:00 PM

Good afternoon,

Thank you for reaching out again. I am saddened you are still angry. We have followed the school district protocol to handle the situation, and we have already moved Noah to another class upon your request.

As for your other concerns, we cannot disclose information about other students or staff for confidentiality purposes. However, again, please note that we have followed St. Johns School District policies and procedures in regard to this investigation. We take all investigations seriously and complete them thoroughly.

Thank you,

Linda

 **Linda Carnall**  
Principal  
Switzerland Point Middle School