

Dear GD Elementary Families,

Over the next couple weeks, your child will be discussing bullying and harassment as part of Second Step® Elementary School. The Second Step program teaches children important skills for getting along with others and doing well in school. It also helps our school be a safe, respectful place where everyone can learn. We are taking proactive steps to reduce occurrences of bullying and harassment at our school.

Second Step Elementary School is designed to support your child in developing the knowledge and skills to help stop bullying and harassment. Students will learn the similarities and differences between bullying and harassment, how to recognize when bullying is happening, their rights and responsibilities at school when it comes to bullying and harassment, and how to seek help if they or someone they know is being bullied or harassed. Here are some key definitions your child will be learning:

- **Bullying:** intentional physical, verbal, or social aggression. It's often repeated over time and occurs when there's a real or perceived power imbalance.

Please note this is a general definitions used by Second Step for instructional purposes. The [District's Bullying Intervention and Prevention Plan](#), and the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) [Resources](#) on Bullying include definitions per Massachusetts laws and regulations. We encourage students to report any instances of bullying they witness or experience to you and to trusted adults at our school. Please refer to the District's [Bullying Prevention and Intervention](#) webpage for a reporting form, or contact a Florence Roche administrator if you need support in reporting or dealing with bullying. Additionally, if you have any questions about Second Step Elementary, please don't hesitate to contact us for more information. Thank you for your support as we work together to build a bullying-free community.

Sincerely,

Brian O'Donoghue, Florence Roche Principal bodonoghue@gdrsd.org

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