

## ZERO TOLERANCE BULLYING POLICY

### Indiana Ballet Conservatory

According to the United States Government website, [stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov](http://stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov), Bullying is defined as “aggressive behavior that is intentional, repeated over time, and involves an imbalance of power or strength”. Children all over the country today face Physical (hitting), Verbal (teasing), Emotional (intimidation through nonverbal communication such as gestures or eye contact), and Cyber (texting, email, facebook, and instant messages) bullying constantly, whether they realize it or not.

Adults should be concerned with bullying because:

1. Bullying affects the “mental health, academic work, and physical health” of its victims.
2. Bullying creates isolated, antisocial, and even violent behavior for the child who bullies.
3. Bullying negatively affects those who are around it or observe it.
4. Indiana Ballet Conservatory works hard to promote a healthy and fun learning environment that allows our children to gain the full benefits of dance in a classroom. Every student at IBC is expected to carry themselves in a way that brings dignity and pride to themselves, their fellow teammates, their teachers, and the studio as a whole. As members of a school, we must teach our children that despite our differences and feelings about one another outside of the studio, we must put it all aside in for the good of the individual and the group. It is only when this occurs that our students can reach new heights in the classroom. This is a lesson that is not only important for the IBC team, but for future experiences at school or a work place as well. This removes any negativity and distraction from the classroom, and allows the children to focus on building their technique and ability as dancers.

With that said, we asking ALL students and parents of IBC to sign our Zero Bullying Policy statement.

**THIS FORM NEEDS TO BE SIGNED AND RETURNED WITHIN THE FIRST WEEK OF THE SEMESTER.** In the event that an incident that is considered bullying occurs within IBC, the student, the student’s parent, an IBC Faculty member, and the ED will have a meeting to address the incident and help the student change their behavior. **If the negative behavior continues, the student will be SUSPENDED from IBC for the duration of the semester.** This is possible at any time throughout the year, from the first day of class to a week before a performance, and during the YAGP season as well. Nothing is more important than the safety and happiness of your children at IBC, which is why these precautions are being made.

I \_\_\_\_\_ (Print student’s name), pledge to stand up against bullying and keep it out of IBC starting with me. I will report to an adult, parent, or staff member at IBC if I witness any act of bullying. I will not participate in physical, verbal, emotional, or cyber bullying with my fellow dancers at Indiana Ballet Conservatory. I understand that failure to do so will lead to suspension from IBC for the 2019-2020 season.

Students Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness (Parent Signature): \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_