



Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Bullying/Cyberbullying
Number	249
Status	Active
Adopted	April 26, 2011
Last Revised	August 19, 2014

Purpose

The Board is committed to providing a safe, positive learning environment for district students. The Board recognizes that bullying creates an atmosphere of fear and intimidation, detracts from the safe environment necessary for student learning, and may lead to more serious violence. Therefore, the Board prohibits bullying and cyberbullying by district students.

Definitions

Bullying means an intentional electronic, written, verbal or physical act or series of acts directed at another student or students, which occurs in a school setting and/or outside a school setting, that is severe, persistent or pervasive and has the effect of doing any of the following:[\[1\]](#)

1. Substantial interference with a student's education.
2. Creation of a threatening environment.
3. Substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school.

Bullying, as defined in this policy, includes cyberbullying.

Cyberbullying includes, but is not limited to, the following misuses of technology: harassing, teasing, intimidating, threatening, or terrorizing another student, teacher or employee of the district by sending or posting inappropriate or derogatory email messages, instant messages, text messages, digital pictures or images, or website postings, including blogs, and/or any other digital media. Cyberbullying that creates a nexus between the student's school and the student's online behavior is in violation of this policy and, to the extent that such actions are disruptive to the educational process of the district, offenders shall be subject to appropriate discipline.

School setting means in the school, on school grounds, in school vehicles, at a designated bus stop or at any activity sponsored, supervised or sanctioned by the school.[\[1\]](#)

Authority

The Board prohibits all forms of bullying and cyberbullying by district students.[\[1\]](#)

The Board encourages students who have been bullied to promptly report such incidents to the building principal or designee.

The Board directs that complaints of bullying shall be investigated promptly, and corrective action shall be taken when allegations are verified. Confidentiality of all parties shall be maintained, consistent with the district's legal and investigative obligations. No reprisals or retaliation shall occur as a result of good faith reports of bullying.

Delegation of Responsibility

Each student shall be responsible to respect the rights of others and to ensure an atmosphere free from bullying.

Each staff member shall be responsible to maintain an educational environment free from bullying.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop administrative regulations to implement this policy.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that this policy and administrative regulations are reviewed annually with students.[\[1\]](#)

The Superintendent or designee, in cooperation with other appropriate administrators, shall review this policy every three (3) years and recommend necessary revisions to the Board.[\[1\]](#)

District administration shall annually provide the following information with the Safe School Report:[\[1\]](#)

1. Board's Bullying Policy.
2. Report of bullying incidents.
3. Information on the development and implementation of any bullying prevention, intervention or education programs.

Guidelines

The Code of Student Conduct, which shall contain this policy, shall be disseminated annually to students.[\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)

This policy shall be accessible in every classroom. The policy shall be posted in a prominent location within each school building and on the district website, if available.

Complaint Procedure

1. A student or employee shall report a complaint of bullying orally or in writing, to the building principal.
2. The building principal shall investigate the alleged conduct that occurred.
3. The building principal may ask assistance from other district employees in the investigation process.
4. After the investigation, the building principal shall prepare a written report of the complaint and the results of the investigation, and shall take corrective action to ensure that the conduct ceases.

The building principal or his/her designee shall inform the parents/guardians of the victim and person accused.

Education

The district may develop and implement bullying prevention and intervention programs. Such programs shall provide district staff and students with appropriate training for effectively responding to, intervening in and reporting incidents of bullying. [\[4\]](#)[\[1\]](#)[\[6\]](#)

Consequences for Violations

A student who violates this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action consistent with the Code of Student Conduct, which may include: [\[1\]](#)[\[3\]](#)[\[7\]](#)

1. Counseling within the school.
2. Parental conference.
3. Loss of school privileges.
4. Transfer to another school building, classroom or school bus.
5. Exclusion from school-sponsored activities.
6. Detention.
7. Suspension.
8. Expulsion.
9. Counseling/Therapy outside of school.
10. Referral to law enforcement officials.

Legal	1. 24 P.S. 1303.1-A
	2. 22 PA Code 12.3
	3. Pol. 218
	4. 24 P.S. 1302-A
	6. Pol. 236
	7. Pol. 233
	Pol. 000
	Pol. 248

Last Modified by Rachel Troche on June 2, 2015