



Book	Policy Manual
<b>Section</b>	200 Pupils
Title	Bullying
Number	249
Status	Active
Adopted	August 16, 2010
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### **Purpose**

Creating and maintaining a safe and welcoming learning climate for all students in all district schools is a high priority to the Board. Therefore, it shall be the policy of the Board that bullying in any form shall not be tolerated.

A safe school climate free from bullying is necessary for students to learn and achieve high academic standards.

### **Authority**

Bullying behavior disrupts the educational process, therefore, the Board establishes that it shall not be tolerated in the school setting.[1]

### **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 over a period of time 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.

**Bullying** may be physical, verbal, written, electronically transmitted or psychological. It may include but is not limited to actions such as verbal taunts, physical aggression, extortion of money or possessions, exclusion from peer groups within school, name-calling, and derogatory statements, including any discriminatory statements prohibited by and consistent with the Board's unlawful harassment policy. [2]

**Cyberbullying** is any cyber-communication or publication posted or sent by a minor online, by instant messenger, e-mail, web site, blog, online profile, interactive game, handheld device, cell phone, or other interactive device that is intended to frighten, embarrass, harass, or otherwise target another minor. If both individuals are not minors, the action is considered cyberharassment, not cyberbullying. To be considered cyberbullying, the following must occur; the communication needs to be repeated; a threat of bodily harm issued; or a public posting designed to hurt, embarrass or otherwise target a child.

**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]

### **Delegation of Responsibility**

Any person aware of bullying shall report the incident to school staff. School staff shall provide immediate interventions consistent with 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 bullying prevention climate shall consist of school-wide action, classroom-level activities, individual interventions and community involvements that are consistent with the training provided by the district.

School-wide action includes but is not limited to training for school staff and students and adoption of antibullying rules.

When a student believes that s/he is a victim of bullying, the student shall report a complaint of bullying, orally or in writing, to the building principal, counselor, teacher or another school employee.

All school employees are required to report alleged violations of this policy to the building principal or designee. An employee shall be subject to disciplinary procedures consistent with the current collective bargaining agreement, as applicable, and district policy for failure to report.

The principal or designee will investigate the incident and maintain a confidential record in the discipline file of both the victim(s) and bully(ies).

The building principal or designee shall contact the parent/guardian of both the bully and victim.

Appropriate consequences and remedial actions will be administered in accordance with Board policy.

Victims and their parents/guardians shall be made aware of appropriate counseling services available to them, if needed. The parent handbook, the district web site, parent meetings or contacts, the Student Code of

Conduct and other Board policies shall provide information pertinent to the district's antibullying policy. 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 web site, if available.

The district prohibits reprisal or retaliation against any person who reports a relevant act of bullying. The principal, in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct and/or other Board policy, shall determine the consequences and remedial actions which may include:[1][3][4]

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.

The principal, in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct and/or other Board policy, shall determine the consequences and remedial actions for a student found to have falsely accused another as a means of harassment.

Any violation of the PACrimes Code shall be reported to district security. 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.[5][7][1]

Legal

1. 24 P.S. 1303.1-A
2. Pol. 248
3. Pol. 218
4. Pol. 233
5. 24 P.S. 1302-A
7. Pol. 236