



Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Bullying
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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 and harassment 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.[\[1\]](#)[\[6\]](#)[\[7\]](#)

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 , that is severe, persistent or pervasive over a period of time and has the intent or effect of doing any of the following:[\[1\]](#)

1. Creating an intimidating or hostile environment that creates a substantial interference with a student's education; or
2. Physically, emotionally, or mentally harming a student; or places a student in fear of such physical, emotional, or mental harm; or
3. Substantially disrupts the orderly operation of the school.

Bullying, as defined in this policy, includes cyberbullying.

Bullying may include acts that occur outside of school if those acts are intentional, electronic, verbal or physical, are directed at another student or students and have the effect of (i) substantially interfering with a student's education; (ii) creating a threatening environment; or (iii) substantially disrupting the orderly operation of school.

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 the Board's nondiscrimination policies.[2]

Cyberbullying is bullying that occurs electronically, including, but not limited to social media through email, a chat room, instant messaging, a website, text messaging, or videos or pictures posted on websites or sent through cell phones.

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/guardian 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:[\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)

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 suspected criminal activity shall be reported to district security or local law enforcement, and alleged victims shall be informed of their right to contact local law enforcement to pursue a private criminal complaint, if warranted.

Bullying on the basis of race, color, age, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, ancestry, national origin, marital status, pregnancy or handicap/disability may also be discriminatory harassment and, shall be reported and investigated under the Board's nondiscrimination policies.[\[6\]](#)[\[7\]](#)

Education

The district shall 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.[\[1\]](#)[\[4\]](#)[\[5\]](#)

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| Legal | 1. 24 P.S. 1303.1-A |
| | 2. Pol. 218 |
| | 3. Pol. 233 |
| | 4. 24 P.S. 1302-A |
| | 5. Pol. 236 |
| | 6. Pol. 103 |
| | 7. Pol. 103.1 |