



Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Bullying/Cyberbullying
Code	249
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Legal	1. 24 P.S. 1303.1-A 2. 22 PA Code 12.3 3. Pol. 218 4. 24 P.S. 1302-A 5. Pol. 236 6. Pol. 233 Pol. 103
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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 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.

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]

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][5]

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][6]

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. Referral to law enforcement officials.

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Administrative Guidelines Accompanying Policy No. 249: District Reporting Procedures for Bullying/Cyberbullying

Upon receipt of a complaint of bullying, a building administrator or designee will investigate the complaint promptly.

A report of bullying must be investigated even if the report is anonymous and even if the reporter stated that s/he does not want the district to take action.

Confidentiality of all parties will be consistent with the district's legal and investigative obligations.

Such investigation may include some, but not necessarily all, of the following steps based on the specific allegations:

1. Identify and interview the complainant.
2. Identify and interview the individual(s) directly involved in the alleged bullying incident.
3. Identify and interview witnesses to the alleged bullying incident.
4. Define the incident as clearly as possible, including the specific electronic, written, verbal or physical action or series of actions that have occurred. Describe where and when the incident(s) occurred.
5. Review of any relevant evidence or documents relating to alleged bullying incident.
6. Any other reasonable investigation the building administrator deems necessary.
7. Refer to law enforcement if appropriate.

Some bullying might also constitute sexual harassment, racial intimidation or ethnic intimidation. To the extent that the nature of the bullying/cyberbullying may constitute one (1) or more of those things, the policies and administrative regulations pertaining to those subjects must be followed.

Any reports of bullying must be reduced to writing and that the investigation be thoroughly documented, and that the outcome of the investigation also be noted in writing.