



Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Bullying/Cyberbullying
Code	249
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Purpose

The Board is committed to providing a safe, positive learning environment for district students. The Board recognizes that bullying **and cyberbullying** 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 means bullying through electronic technology or communication, including but not limited to electronic devices, networks, email, text messaging, social media, online platforms or other digital means, when the conduct:

- Is directed at another student;
- Is severe, persistent or pervasive; and
- Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education, creating a threatening environment, or substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

Cyberbullying may include conduct occurring outside a school setting when the conduct meets the definition of "bullying" above and has the required impact on a student's education, the school environment, or the orderly operation of the school.

Artificial intelligence-generated or modified media means text, code, images, audio, video or other digital content created or modified through the use of artificial intelligence. Cyberbullying may include conduct involving artificial intelligence-generated or modified media.

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 or cyberbullied to promptly report such incidents to the building principal or designee.

The Board directs that complaints of bullying and cyberbullying 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.

When a student's behavior indicates a threat to the safety of the student, other students, school employees, school facilities, the community or others, district staff shall report the student to the threat assessment team, in accordance with applicable law and Board policy.^{[2][3]}

Delegation of Responsibility

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

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

Such regulations shall include procedures for reporting, investigating, documenting, and responding to allegations of bullying and cyberbullying, parent/guardian notification, and compliance with applicable confidentiality requirements.

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.
4. Information required by law regarding bullying and cyberbullying incidents, including incidents suspected to involve artificial intelligence-generated or modified media.

Guidelines

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

This policy shall be **readily accessible**. The policy shall be posted in a prominent location within each school building and on the district website, if available.[\[1\]](#)

Upon learning about a bullying incident, the principal or designee will refer to the administrative regulations accompanying this policy which address district reporting procedures. Confidentiality of all parties shall be maintained consistent with the district's legal and investigative obligations.

Reports of bullying or cyberbullying may be made by students, parents/guardians, employees, or other individuals with knowledge of the alleged conduct. Such reports should be made to [“the policy shall identify the appropriate school staff person to receive reports of incidents of alleged bullying”]. Other school staff who receive reports shall forward them to [person identified].

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.[\[1\]](#)[\[4\]](#)[\[5\]](#)[\[6\]](#)

Such programs may also include instruction and training related to cyberbullying, responsible use of technology, and the misuse of artificial intelligence-generated or modified media.

Interventions

It is the policy of the District to implement appropriate supports and interventions to prevent and/or address student conduct that could lead to bullying or cyberbullying. Interventions and supports might include counseling, mentoring, conflict resolution, skill-building, behavioral supports, increased supervision, classroom seating changes, parent conferences, and any other effective and age-appropriate action or program. The superintendent or designee shall develop administrative regulations to guide teachers and administrators in implementing such interventions.

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:[\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)[\[7\]](#)

1. Counseling within the school.
2. Parental conference.
3. **Restorative or educational interventions, where appropriate.**
4. Loss of school privileges.
5. Transfer to another school building, classroom or school bus.
6. Exclusion from school-sponsored activities.
7. Detention.

8. Suspension.
9. Expulsion.
10. Referral to law enforcement officials.
11. Other actions deemed appropriate by the district and consistent with the Code of Student Conduct, Board policy and applicable law.

False Reports

~~A student who knowingly makes a false report of bullying or cyberbullying may be subject to appropriate corrective or disciplinary action consistent with the Code of Student Conduct and applicable law.~~

~~This provision shall not be used to discourage good faith reports.~~

Legal

1. [24 P.S. 1303.1-A](#)

2. Pol. 218

3. [22 PA Code 12.3](#)

4. [20 U.S.C. 7118](#)

5. [24 P.S. 1302-A](#)

6. Pol. 236

7. Pol. 233

[24 P.S. 1302-E](#)

Pol. 103

Pol. 113.1

Pol. 236.1



249 Report Form.pdf (351 KB)