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| Book         | Policy Manual          |
| Section      | 200 Pupils             |
| Title        | Bullying/Cyberbullying |
| Code         | 249                    |
| Status       | Active                 |
| Adopted      | January 20, 2009       |
| Last Revised | June 15, 2010          |

### **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 written, verbal, or physical act or series of acts directed at another student or students, which is initiated/received/expressed to occur in the jurisdiction of a school, that is severe, persistent, or pervasive. This definition includes cyberbullying, which is an electronic version of bullying 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 or "sexting."

**Sexting** means sending, forwarding, displaying, retaining, storing, or posting sexually explicit, lewd, indecent, or pornographic photographs, images, or messages by or on a cell phone, computer, or other electronic means during school hours or any school sponsored activities on or off campus, while on school district property, during any recess, lunch, or leave periods on or off school district property, by use of school district property, or beyond the hours of school operation if the behavior detrimentally affects the personal safety or well-being of school-related individuals, the governance, climate, or efficient operation of the school or that disrupts the educational process.

**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 by district students and encourages students who have been bullied to promptly report such incidents to the building principal or designee. Violation of this policy by a student shall result in disciplinary action in accordance with Board policy 218. [1][2]

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.

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

District administration shall annually provide the following information with the [1]

Safe School Report:

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 included in student handbooks and disseminated annually. [1][3][2]

A copy of this policy shall be available in every classroom, and posted in a prominent place in each school building.

### **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]

### **Consequences for Violations**

A student who violates this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action consistent with the Code of Student Conduct outlined in student handbooks, which may include: [1][2][5]

1. Counseling within the school.
2. Parental conference.
3. Loss of school privileges.
4. Exclusion from school-sponsored activities.
5. Detention.
6. Suspension.

7. Expulsion.
8. Counseling/Therapy outside of school.
9. Referral to law enforcement officials.
10. Confiscation of electronic devices and/or revocation of school district computer/network privileges.

Legal

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

2. Pol. 218

3. [22 PA Code 12.3](#)

4. [24 P.S. 1302-A](#)

5. Pol. 233

Pol. 233

Pol. 237