

BULLYING

PURPOSE

Creating and maintaining a safe and welcoming learning environment for all students is a high priority in all district schools. A safe school environment free from bullying is necessary for pupils to learn and achieve high academic standards. Bullying behavior disrupts the educational process; therefore it will not be tolerated on school property, in school vehicles, at school-sponsored events, or during travel to and from school.

DEFINITION

Under this policy, bullying is a form of harassment in which the behavior is intended, or perceived to intend, to harm or cause distress to another. The action occurs repeatedly over time and, in addition to causing harm or distress, has the effect of insulting or demeaning any student or group of students in such a way as to cause disruption of the orderly operation of the 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, and extortion of money or possessions, exclusion from peer groups within school, name-calling, and derogatory statements, including any discriminatory statements.

AUTHORITY

The School Board prohibits all forms of bullying behavior on school property, in school vehicles, at school-sponsored events, or during travel to and from school. Any violation of this policy shall be considered an infraction of the Student Code of Conduct, with discipline implemented accordingly. All bullying behavior that is a violation of the PA Crimes Code will be reported to law enforcement.

DELEGATION OF RESPONSIBILITY

Any person discovering bullying shall report the incident to a teacher, counselor or administrator. School staff will provide immediate interventions consistent with this school policy. Students are also encouraged to immediately report bullying.

GUIDELINES

1. When a student believes that he/she 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.
2. All school employees are required to report alleged violations of this policy to the building principal or the principal's designee.
3. The principal or principal's designee will investigate the incident and maintain a confidential record in the discipline file of both the victim(s) and bully(ies).
4. The building principal or designee will contact the parent/guardian of both the bully and victim.
5. Appropriate consequences and remedial actions range from positive behavioral interventions to and including suspension, and may include separating the student(s) being bullied from the perpetrator(s). Any violation of the PA Crimes Code will be reported to law enforcement.
6. Victims and their parents shall be made aware of appropriate counseling and agency services available.

The District prohibits reprisal or retaliation against any person who reports a relevant act of bullying. The principal will determine the consequences and remedial actions. Any violation of the PA Crimes Code will be reported to law enforcement.

The principal will determine the consequences and remedial actions for a pupil found to have falsely accused another as a means of harassment, intimidation or bullying. Any violation of the PA Crimes Code will be reported to law enforcement.