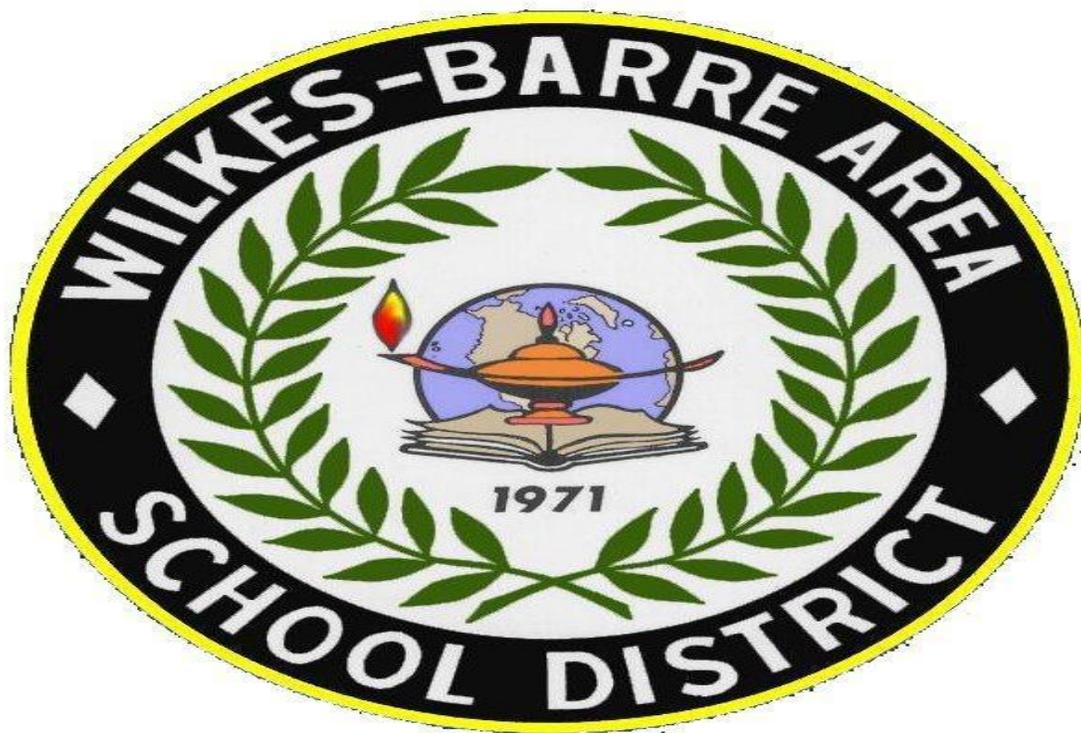


Wilkes-Barre Area School District



Bullying Prevention

The Wilkes-Barre Area School District Board of Education strives to provide a safe, positive learning climate for students in the schools. Therefore, it shall be the policy of the District to maintain an educational environment in which bullying and cyber bullying in any form are not tolerated.

Students have the right to feel safe and comfortable at school.

What is Bullying?

Bullying shall mean unwelcome verbal, written or physical conduct directed at a student by another student that has the effect of:

1. Physically, emotionally or mentally harming a student;
2. Damaging, extorting or taking a student's personal property;
3. Placing a student in reasonable fear of physical, emotional or mental harm;
4. Placing a student in reasonable fear of damage to or loss of personal property; or
5. Creating an intimidating or hostile environment that substantially interferes with a student's educational opportunities.

Cyber bullying includes, but is not limited to, the following misuses of technology: harassing, teasing, intimidating, threatening, or terrorizing another student or staff member by way of any technological tool, such as sending or posting inappropriate or derogatory email messages, instant messages, text messages, digital pictures or images, or website postings (including blogs) which has the effect of:

1. Physically, emotionally or mentally harming a student;
2. Placing a student in reasonable fear of physical, emotional or mental harm;
3. Placing a student in reasonable fear of damage to or loss of personal property; or
4. Creating an intimidating or hostile environment that substantially interferes with a student's educational opportunities.

All forms of bullying are unacceptable and, to the extent that such actions are disruptive of the educational process of the Wilkes-Barre Area School District, offenders shall be subject to appropriate staff intervention, which may result in administrative discipline.



The following are specific things that teachers can do to help prevent bullying:

1. Make it clear to students that bullying will not be tolerated in the classroom, in the hallways, on the playground, or anywhere at school.
2. Ensure students that if anyone has a problem with bullying, that s/he can talk to you about it in person or by writing you a note about what happened.
3. Immediately take action when you see bullying, name calling, or harassment happen in your presence.
4. Help students identify themselves as allies for victimized students.
5. If students report bullying, make sure that the bullies are confronted and that the victims, bystanders, and allies are protected.
6. Have students write what they think a bully is and discuss it out loud.
7. Work with other teachers to share ideas on what you are doing in your classroom to teach about and prevent bullying.
8. Compile with your students a list of strategies for dealing with bullies and post them in your classroom.



The following is a list of strategies to help students deal with bullies:

1. Walk away from a bully.
2. Ignore the bully.
3. Tell someone like a teacher, parent/guardian, or friend that can help.
4. Try to be nice to the bully.
5. Try to be tricky.
6. Go to class to talk about problems with bullies.
7. Stand behind the person being bullied.
8. Go out of your way to make new friends to make yourself feel better.
9. Use humor.
10. Stay with other people so that you are not alone.
11. Do not give the bully the power to change your life.
12. Do not fight back.



Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) Department of the Wilkes-Barre Area School District

The Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) Department of the Wilkes-Barre Area School District has initiated a wellness project entitled Family and Community Enrichment Series (FACES) to target prevention of school-wide behavior problems and improve the environment of our schools by focusing on facilitating the social and emotional development of all students. FACES utilizes family and community outreach along with systematic screening and scientifically-based research interventions to re-engage disconnected students, address barriers to learning, and enhance resiliency in order to create safer and healthier schools. As part of this initiative, the PPS department and FACES have developed programs to prevent as well as address bullying and cyber bullying. These prevention programs include in-services for district faculty and staff; family outreach programs that provide relevant information in the form of bulletins and posters; school-based festivals hosting community agencies to provide information to families; media events and motivational speakers at schools to provide information and strategies for students experiencing types of bullying; school-wide positive behavioral support programs; Student Assistance Programs and group/individual counseling by guidance staff to address problems and teach coping strategies, etc.





School Resource/Police Officer Program

The Wilkes-Barre Area School District recognizes the need for intervention and prevention in an effort to reduce crime among juveniles in school-based settings. To meet this need the District has placed eight full-time school resource officers (SRO/SPO) into the Wilkes-Barre Area School District.

The issue of creating safe schools is a concern shared by the community. Children find it difficult to learn and teachers cannot teach if violence is present in their schools. Our children and our teachers have a right to expect their school to be safe and to be a place where individuals are not threatened, intimidated or victimized.

This program is an effort not only to address school-based crime, but an endeavor to provide juvenile intervention and prevention through education, mentoring, and counseling as a means to reduce juvenile crime throughout the community. The program is designed to integrate a school resource officer into the school setting, not as a police officer assigned to the school district, but rather as a school resource officer who is part of the school community and whose presence is as inoffensive and as commonplace as a teacher, school nurse or custodian.

The exclusive focus of the officer's duty in the school community is a vital aspect of this program. Unlike the police officer who responds to school problems as a result of an emergency call, the school resource officer regards the school and its surrounding neighborhood as his/her community.

The officer knows the school and the layout of the grounds, the school rules and regulations, the school's population, and the neighborhood. The students and the school resource officer will see each on a daily basis affording them the opportunity to interact in many different situations ranging from a classroom setting to perhaps shooting hoops in the gym.

This basic interaction is important because it allows youths to view the school resource officer as a person who helps to lay the critical foundation needed to support trust, free exchange of information and ideas, and improved relationships.

Working within the school allows the school resource officer the opportunity to work hand in hand with school personnel and with school-based probation officers to identify students in need of intervention or guidance.

Community Resources

Luzerne County Community Counseling
570-823-2155

Luzerne County Emergency
911

Wilkes-Barre Area School District Pupil Personnel Services
570-826-7111 x1118

Wilkes-Barre Area School Resource Officer Program
570-826-7111 x1124

Wilkes-Barre City Police Non-Emergency
570-826-8106

Plains Township Police Non-Emergency
570-829-3432

Luzerne County Children and Youth
570-826-8710

Luzerne County Children Service Center
570-825-6425

RESEARCH PROGRAM

Center for Safe Schools
www.center-school.org/bullyingprevention

US Department of Health and Human Services
www.stopbullyingnow.org

Nemours Center for Children's Health
<http://kidshealth.org/parent/emotions/behavior/bullies.html>

Bullying
www.dfes.gov.uk/bullying

**For further information about Bullying Prevention contact any
Wilkes-Barre Area School District's Guidance Department**

Updated: August 10, 2019