

NORTH SCHUYLKILL SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: BULLYING/
CYBERBULLYING

ADOPTED: December 8, 2010

REVISED: June 18, 2014

<p>1. Purpose</p> <p>2. Definitions SC 1303.1-A</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">249. BULLYING/CYBERBULLYING</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Bullying, as defined by law, 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 that is severe, persistent or pervasive and has the effect of doing any of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Substantial interference with a student’s education. 2. Creation of a threatening environment. 3. Substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school. <p>Bullying, as defined in this policy, includes cyberbullying.</p> <p>Cyberbullying is bullying that takes place using electronic technology. Electronic technology includes devices and equipment such as cell phones, computers, and tablets as well as communication tools including social media sites, text messages, chat and websites. Examples of cyberbullying include mean text messages or emails, rumors sent by email or posted on social networking sites, and embarrassing pictures, videos, websites, or fake profiles.</p> <p>Bullying, as defined in this policy, includes, but is not limited to, the following:</p> <p>“A person is bullied when he or she is exposed, repeatedly and over time, to negative actions on the part of one or more other persons, and he or she has difficulty defending himself or herself.” Olweus Bullying Prevention Program</p> <p>Bullying is aggressive behavior that involves unwanted, negative actions.</p>
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<p>SC 1303.1-A</p> <p>3. Authority SC 1303.1-A</p> <p>4. Delegation of Responsibility</p> <p>SC 1303.1-A</p> <p>SC 1303.1-A</p> <p>SC 1303.1-A</p>	<p>Bullying involves a pattern of behavior repeated over time.</p> <p>Bullying involves an imbalance of power or strength.</p> <p>School setting means in the school, on school grounds, in school vehicles, at a designated bus stop or at any extracurricular activity.</p> <p>The Board prohibits all forms of bullying by district students.</p> <p>The Board encourages students who have been bullied to promptly report such incidents to the building principal or designee.</p> <p>The Board directs that complaints of bullying shall be investigated promptly. The building principal or designee shall begin the immediate review of the complaint the same day it is reported if possible, or the next working day if it is not possible to begin such an investigation on the same day as the complaint is made. Corrective action shall be taken when allegations are verified. There will be written documentation from the onset of complaint until case is closed.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Each student shall be responsible to respect the rights of others and to ensure an atmosphere free from bullying.</p> <p>The Superintendent or designee shall develop administrative regulations to implement this policy.</p> <p>The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that this policy and administrative regulations are reviewed annually with students.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>District administration shall annually provide the following information with the Safe School Report:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Board’s Bullying Policy. 2. Report of bullying incidents.
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<p>SC 1303.1-A Pol. 218, 233</p>	<p>Step 2 – Investigation</p> <p>Upon receiving a complaint of bullying, the building principal shall immediately investigate the complaint, unless the building principal is the subject of the complaint or is unable to conduct the investigation.</p> <p>The investigation may consist of individual interviews with the complainant, the accused, and others with knowledge relative to the incident. The investigator may also evaluate any other information and materials relevant to the investigation.</p> <p>The obligation to conduct this investigation shall not be negated by the fact that a criminal investigation of the incident is pending or has been concluded. The findings of the investigation shall be provided to the parents/guardians of the accused student and the complainant.</p> <p>Step 3 – Investigative Report</p> <p>The building principal shall prepare a written report within ten (10) days, unless additional time is requested to complete the investigation. The report shall include a summary of the investigation, a determination of whether the allegations of the complaint are true, in whole or in part, and whether there has been a violation of this policy, and a recommended disposition of the complaint. The investigative report shall be retained by the principal/designee and forwarded to the Superintendent as appropriate.</p> <p>Step 4 – District Action</p> <p>If the investigation results in a finding that the complaint is factual and constitutes a violation of this policy, the district shall take prompt, corrective action to ensure that such conduct ceases and will not recur.</p> <p>A student who violates this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action consistent with the Code of Student Conduct, which may include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Counseling services and/or educational activities.2. Parental conference.3. Loss of school privileges.4. Transfer to another classroom.5. Transfer to an out of district placement.
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6. Exclusion from school-sponsored activities.
7. Detention.
8. Suspension.
9. Expulsion.
10. Recommendation for counseling/therapy outside of school.
11. Referral to Student Assistance Program.
12. Referral to law enforcement officials.

Appeal Procedure

If the complainant is not satisfied with a finding of no violation of the policy or with the corrective action recommended in the investigative report, he/she may submit a written appeal to the Superintendent within fifteen (15) days.

References:

School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 1302-A, 1303.1-A

State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec. 12.3

Board Policy – 000, 218, 233, 236, 248