

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: BULLYING/CYBERBULLYING PREVENTION

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# PENNCREST SCHOOL DISTRICT

<p>249. BULLYING/CYBERBULLYING PREVENTION</p>	
<p>1. Purpose</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. Bullying is an aggressive behavior which may be direct or indirect in nature and has the intention of hurting or humiliating another student. To deprive an individual his/her dignity through bullying is a serious offense against the individual, and in that it interferes with the stated mission and vision of this school district, an offense against PENNCREST as well. Therefore, the Board prohibits bullying by district students.</p>
<p>2. Definitions</p>	<p>It is the intent of this policy that the term <b>bullying</b> include, but not be limited to, incidents that are reasonably perceived as being motivated either by any actual or perceived characteristic, such as gender, age, race, color, sexual orientation (known or perceived), gender identity expression (known or perceived), national origin, religion, disability, socioeconomic status and/or political beliefs.</p>
<p>SC 1303.1-A</p>	<p><b>Bullying</b> 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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Substantially interfering with a student’s education.</li> <li>2. Creating a threatening environment.</li> <li>3. Substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.</li> </ol> <p><b>Bullying</b>, as defined in this policy, includes <b>cyberbullying</b> and the use of other forms of technological media, bystander support or encouragement of an act of bullying and more subtle indirect forms of bullying behavior such as exclusion and shunning by other students.</p>

<p>SC 1303.1-A</p>	<p><b>School setting</b> 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.</p>
<p>3. Authority SC 1303.1-A</p>	<p>The Board prohibits all forms of bullying by district students as well as active or passive bystander support for acts of bullying.</p> <p>The Board encourages students who have been bullied or have witnessed or know of an act of bullying to promptly report such incidents to the building principal or designee. Anonymous reports of bullying will be considered for investigation but will not be the sole basis for formal disciplinary action.</p> <p>The onus of reporting must not be placed on the bullied student who often no longer has the wherewithal to report. Therefore, the Board prohibits the victim of bullying to be subject to disciplinary action for failure to report.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No individual who is the victim of bullying shall be required to participate in mediation, conflict resolution, or interact with the perpetrator in an attempt to resolve the situation.</p>
<p>4. Delegation of Responsibility</p>	<p>The Superintendent or designee shall develop administrative regulations to implement this policy.</p> <p>The principal or his/her designee will be responsible for promptly determining whether an alleged act of bullying constitutes a violation of this policy.</p> <p>Teachers and other staff who observe acts of bullying shall take prompt, reasonable steps to stop such conduct and ensure the safety of the victim.</p> <p>Each student shall be responsible to respect the rights of others and to ensure an atmosphere free from bullying. Students are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that is consistent with their level of development, maturity, and demonstrated capabilities, with a proper regard to the rights and welfare of others.</p>
<p>SC 1303.1-A</p>	<p>The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that this policy and administrative regulations are reviewed annually with students.</p>

<p>SC 1303.1-A</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>SC 1303.1-A</p>	<p>District administration shall annually provide the following information with the Safe School Report:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Board’s Bullying Policy.</li> <li>2. Report of bullying incidents.</li> <li>3. Information on the development and implementation of any bullying prevention, intervention or education programs.</li> </ol>
<p>5. Guidelines SC 1303.1-A Title 22 Sec. 12.3 Pol. 218</p>	<p>The Code of Student Conduct, which shall contain this policy, shall be disseminated annually to students.</p> <p>This policy shall be accessible in every classroom. The policy shall be posted in a prominent location within each school building and on the district web site, if available.</p> <p><u>Education</u></p>
<p>SC 1302-A, 1303.1-A Pol. 236</p>	<p>The district may develop and implement bullying prevention and intervention programs. Such programs shall provide district staff and students with appropriate training for effectively recognizing, responding to, intervening in and reporting incidents of bullying.</p> <p><u>Consequences For Violations</u></p> <p>Consequences for bullying will take into consideration the unique characteristics of the individuals, circumstances, history of behavioral problems, and degree of damage; physical, emotional or psychological, that has been suffered by the victim or victims. All individuals who bully will be held accountable for their behavior. Remedial measures shall be designed to correct the problem behavior, prevent another occurrence and protect the victim of the assault.</p>

SC 1303.1-A  
Pol. 218, 233

A student who violates this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action consistent with the Code of Student Conduct. Consequences for student bullying may include:

1. Positive behavioral interventions such as:

- Service-oriented activities aimed at making amends for damages.
- Service-oriented activities to increase empathy and understanding of others.
- Counseling within the school.
- Counseling/Therapy outside of school.
- Parental conference.

2. Disciplinary behavioral interventions such as:

- Loss of school privileges.
- Transfer to another school building, classroom or school bus.
- Loss of privilege to attend school-sponsored activities.
- Detention.
- Suspension.
- Expulsion.
- Referral to law enforcement officials.
- Other consequences as provided in the Code of Student Conduct.

3. A combination of positive and disciplinary interventions as appropriate.

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