

MIDDLETOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: BULLYING

ADOPTED: November 17, 2003

REVISED: December 4, 2008

249. BULLYING	
1. Purpose	<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>
2. Definition SC 1303.1-A	<p>Bullying 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"> 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>
SC 1303.1-A	<p>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.</p>
3. Authority SC 1303.1-A	<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, 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>4. Delegation of Responsibility</p>	<p>Each student shall be responsible to respect the rights of others and to ensure an atmosphere free from bullying.</p> <p><i>Intervention</i> - Teachers who observe acts or to whom acts of bullying are reported shall take reasonable steps to intervene to stop such conduct, unless intervention would threaten a teacher’s personal safety. The nature of the intervention will vary depending upon the age of the student (both the victim and aggressor), the severity of the bullying and the student’s involvement in prior acts of bullying. The purpose of the intervention is to take prompt remedial steps to ensure observed acts of bullying cease and to teach students that bullying is not acceptable behavior.</p> <p>The Superintendent or designee shall develop administrative regulations to implement this policy.</p> <p>SC 1303.1-A The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that this policy and administrative regulations are reviewed annually with students.</p> <p>SC 1303.1-A 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 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. 3. Information on the development and implementation of any bullying prevention, intervention or education programs.
<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 website, if available.</p>

<p>SC 1302-A, 1303.1-A Pol. 236</p>	<p><u>Education</u></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 responding to, intervening in and reporting incidents of bullying.</p> <p><u>Student, Parent/Guardian And Employee Reporting</u></p> <p>The school district strongly encourages all students and parents/guardians who become aware of any act of bullying to immediately report that conduct. Students may report acts of bullying to their teachers, building principal or other school employees supervising school-sponsored activities. Parents/Guardians may contact the building principal to report acts of bullying.</p> <p>If teachers cannot reasonably remediate acts of bullying through their own intervention, they should report the bullying to the building principal. Other school employees who observe acts of bullying shall report that conduct to the building principal.</p> <p><u>Investigation Procedures</u></p> <p>Each building principal or designee is authorized to investigate reports of bullying brought to their attention by students, parents/guardians or school employees. Any investigation of a report may include meetings with students, parents/guardians or employees; a review of student records and other reasonable efforts to better understand the facts surrounding a reported incident.</p>
<p>Pol. 218, 233</p>	<p><u>Consequences/Discipline</u></p> <p>Consequences for students who are found to have bullied others may include counseling, a parent conference, detention, suspension, expulsion, a loss of school privileges and/or exclusion from school-sponsored activities.</p> <p>Depending upon the severity of a particular situation, the building principal may also take appropriate steps to ensure student safety. Such steps may include the development and implementation of a safety plan; supervision plan; separating and supervising the students involved; providing employee support for students as needed; reporting incidents to law enforcement if appropriate.</p>

<p>SC 1303.1-A Pol. 218, 233</p>	<p><u>Consequences For Violations</u></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 within the school. 2. Parental conference. 3. Loss of school privileges. 4. Transfer to another school building, classroom or school bus. 5. Exclusion from school-sponsored activities. 6. Detention. 7. Suspension. 8. Expulsion. 9. Threat assessment. 10. Mental health or drug and alcohol assessment thru the student assistance team. 11. Counseling/Therapy outside of school. 12. Referral to law enforcement officials.
<p>Pol. 248</p>	<p><u>Interplay With Other School District Policies</u></p> <p>Nothing in this policy shall prevent school employees from enforcing, imposing discipline or fulfilling their professional responsibilities under other school district policies or student disciplinary rules.</p> <p>Acts of bullying that is based upon a student’s gender, race, national origin, sexual orientation or disability shall be reported to and investigated by the Superintendent or designee pursuant to Policy 248 entitled Unlawful Harassment.</p>
<p>Pol. 248</p>	<p>This policy shall not be interpreted as preventing a student or parent/guardian from filing a complaint under the school district’s anti-harassment policy.</p>

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 –218, 233, 236, 248