

Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Bullying/Cyberbullying
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Legal	1. 24 P.S. 1303.1-A 2. 22 PA Code 12.3 3. Pol. 218 4. 24 P.S. 1302-A 5. Pol. 236 6. Pol. 233 Pol. 248
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Purpose

The **Joint** Operating Committee is committed to providing a safe, positive learning environment for its students. The **Joint** Operating Committee 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 **Joint** Operating Committee prohibits bullying by students.

Definitions

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:[\[1\]](#)

1. Substantial interference with a student's education.
2. Creation of a threatening environment.
3. Substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school.

Bullying, as defined in this policy, includes cyberbullying.

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.[\[1\]](#)

Authority

The **Joint** Operating Committee prohibits all forms of bullying by students.[\[1\]](#)

The **Joint** Operating Committee encourages students who have been bullied to promptly report such incidents to the **building administrator** or designee.

The **Joint** Operating Committee 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 school's legal and investigative obligations. No reprisals or retaliation shall occur as a result of good faith reports of bullying.

Delegation of Responsibility

Each student shall be responsible to respect the rights of others and to ensure an atmosphere free from bullying.

The Director or designee shall develop administrative regulations to implement this policy.

The Director or designee shall ensure that this policy and administrative regulations are reviewed annually with students.[\[1\]](#)

The Director or designee, in cooperation with other appropriate administrators, shall review this policy every three (3) years and recommend necessary revisions to the **Joint** Operating Committee.[\[1\]](#)

The administration shall annually provide the following information with the Safe School Report:[\[1\]](#)

1. **Joint** Operating Committee's Bullying Policy.
2. Report of bullying incidents.
3. Information on the development and implementation of any bullying prevention, intervention or education programs.

Guidelines

The Code of Student Conduct, which shall contain this policy, shall be disseminated annually to students.[\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)

This policy shall be accessible in every classroom. The policy shall be posted in a prominent location within the school building and on the website, if available.

Education

The school may develop and implement bullying prevention and intervention programs. Such programs shall provide staff and students with appropriate training for effectively responding to, intervening in and reporting incidents of bullying.[\[4\]](#)[\[1\]](#)[\[5\]](#)

Consequences for Violations

A student who violates this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action consistent with the Code of Student Conduct, which may include:[\[1\]](#)[\[3\]](#)[\[6\]](#)

1. Counseling within the school.
2. Parental conference.
3. Loss of school privileges.
4. Exclusion from school-sponsored activities.
5. Detention.
6. Suspension.
7. Expulsion.
8. Counseling/Therapy outside of the school.
9. Referral to law enforcement officials.

Last Modified by Terri Birchard on July 19, 2018