

MCKEESPORT AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: BULLYING/
CYBERBULLYING

ADOPTED: October 22, 2008

REVISED: December 12, 2012

<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, presents an obstacle to social/emotional development of students, and may lead to more serious violence. Therefore, the Board prohibits bullying by district students.</p> <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> <p>Bullying consists of a pattern of repeated harmful behavior by a person with more physical or social power toward a less powerful person. This may include a wide variety of behaviors, with deliberate intent to hurt, embarrass, or humiliate the other person. Researchers have identified four (4) forms of bullying:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Physical - the most commonly known form; includes hitting, kicking, spitting, pushing and taking personal belongings. 2. Verbal - includes taunting, malicious teasing, name-calling, and making threats. 3. Psychological or Relational - involves spreading rumors, manipulating social relationships, and engaging in social exclusion or intimidation.
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<p>SC 1303.1-A</p> <p>3. Authority SC 1303.1-A</p>	<p>4. Cyberbullying - forms of verbal and psychological bullying may also occur on the Internet through email, instant messaging, or personal profile websites such as social media. Cyberbullying includes, but is not limited to, the following misuses of technology: harassing, teasing, intimidating, threatening, or terrorizing another student, teacher or employee of the district by sending or posting inappropriate or derogatory email messages, instant messages, text messages, digital pictures or images, or website postings (including blogs). All forms of cyberbullying are unacceptable and, to the extent that such actions are disruptive of the educational process of the district, offenders shall be the subject of appropriate discipline, which may include legal and/or police proceedings.</p> <p>Bullying includes unwelcome verbal, written or physical conduct directed at a student by another student that has the intent of or effect of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">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.5. Creating an intimidating or hostile environment that substantially interferes with a student's educational opportunities. <p>The term bullying shall not be interpreted to infringe upon a student's right to engage in legally protected speech or conduct.</p> <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 and on the way to and from school.</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, and corrective action shall be taken when allegations are verified. If the behavior is found to meet the definition of bullying, written documentation shall be submitted to the building principal. The building principal or designee will inform</p>
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<p>4. Delegation of Responsibility</p>	<p>parents/guardians of the victim and person accused. 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 and staff member 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>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"> 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>SC 1303.1-A</p>	<p>This policy shall be:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accessible in every classroom. 2. Posted in a prominent location within each school building. 3. Posted on the district website. 4. Published and disseminated in handbooks.
<p>5. Guidelines SC 1303.1-A Title 22 Sec. 12.3</p>	<p>The Code of Student Conduct, which shall contain this policy, shall be disseminated annually to students.</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>Investigation Procedures</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A student shall report a complaint of bullying or cyberbullying, orally or in writing, to the teachers, building administrator, or counselor.2. The building administrator will investigate the alleged conduct that occurred.3. The building administrator may ask assistance from other district employees in the investigation process.4. After the investigation, the building principal or designee shall be notified in writing of the complaint and the results of the investigation and shall take corrective action to ensure that the conduct ceases.
<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. Counseling/Therapy outside of school.

10. Referral to law enforcement officials.

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