

# PHOENIXVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: ANTI-BULLYING/  
CYBERBULLYING

ADOPTED: October 16, 2008

REVISED: August 18, 2011  
April 26, 2012  
January 15, 2015  
June 14, 2018  
March 21, 2019

249. ANTI-BULLYING/CYBERBULLYING	
<p>1. Purpose</p>	<p>The purpose of this policy is to ensure a safe, positive learning environment for all 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>The Board also seeks to ensure that students are taught appropriate online behavior, including interacting with other individuals on social networking websites and in chat rooms and cyberbullying awareness and response.</p>
<p>2. Definitions SC 1301.1-A Pol. 248</p>	<p><b>Bullying</b> is a pattern of abuse or aggressive behavior by one (1) student or a group of students, carried out repeatedly and over time, which occurs in or outside of a school setting, and typically involves an imbalance of power between the two parties. Bullying behavior includes physical intimidation or assault; oral or written threats; teasing; putdowns; or name calling that is sufficiently severe or pervasive to create an intimidating, hostile, or abusive environment; threatening looks, gestures or actions; psychological cruelty, such as spreading rumors or false accusations; and shunning the individual. Bullying is severe, persistent, and pervasive and has the effect of substantially interfering with a student’s education, creating a threatening environment and/or substantially disrupting the orderly operation of school. Regarding issues of Unlawful Harassment, see Policy 248.</p>
<p>SC 1301.1-A Pol. 218, 233</p>	<p><b>Cyberbullying</b> is a form of verbal, written, graphic and psychological bullying which may also occur on the Internet through email, instant messaging, or personal profile website; social networking websites such as, but not limited to Face Book, Instagram, Snap Chat and Twitter; or on cell phone networks through texting, photographs and videotaping. 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</p>

<p>24 P.S. 1303.1-A</p> <p>3. Authority SC 1303.1-A</p>	<p>inappropriate or derogatory email messages, instant messages, text messages, digital pictures or images, or website postings. 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 subject to appropriate discipline.</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>The Board prohibits all forms of bullying by District students.</p> <p>The Board encourages students who believe they or others have been bullied to promptly report such incidents to the building principal or designee.</p> <p>Students, parents/guardians, staff and citizens are encouraged to use the District’s report form, available from the building principal, or to put the complaint in writing; however, oral complaints shall be accepted and documented. All verbal or written complaints of bullying will undergo a second review by the counselors and administrators of the building.</p> <p>The Board directs that verbal and written complaints of bullying shall be investigated promptly, and appropriate corrective and / or preventative action shall be taken when allegations are verified. The Board directs that any complaint of bullying brought pursuant to this policy shall also be reviewed for conduct, which may not be proven to be bullying under this policy but merits review and possible action under other Board policies. Confidentiality of all parties shall be maintained, consistent with the District’s legal and investigative obligations. No reprisal or retaliation shall occur as a result of good faith reports of bullying.</p>
<p>Pol. 103</p>	<p><b><u>Discrimination/Discriminatory Harassment</u></b> Every report of alleged bullying that can be interpreted at the outset to fall within the provisions of policies addressing potential violations of laws against discrimination and discriminatory harassment shall be handled as a joint, concurrent investigation into all allegations and coordinated with the full participation off the Compliance Officer. If, in the course of a bullying investigation, potential issues of discrimination or discriminatory harassment are identified, the Compliance Officer (Assistant Superintendent or designee) shall be promptly notified, and the investigation shall be conducted jointly and concurrently to address the issues of alleged discrimination as well as the incidents of alleged bullying.</p> <p><b><u>Confidentiality</u></b> Confidentiality of all parties, witnesses, the allegations, the filing of a complaint and the investigation shall be handled in accordance with this policy and the District’s legal and investigative obligations.</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>Pol. 218, 233</p> <p>SC 1303.1-A</p> <p>5. Procedures SC 1303.1-A Title 22 Sec. 12.3 Pol. 218</p>	<p><b><u>Retaliation</u></b> Reprisal or retaliation relating to reports of bullying or participation in an investigation of allegations of bullying is prohibited and shall be subject to disciplinary action.</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 ensure that this policy is 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"> <li>1. Boards 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>The Board expects <i>students, parents/guardians, staff and citizens</i> who become aware of an act of bullying or cyberbullying to report it to a school official for further investigation. Any student who retaliates against another person for reporting bullying or cyberbullying will be subject to appropriate disciplinary consequences.</p> <p>Students shall be informed annually, and in writing, that they have the right and the obligation to report bullying and cyberbullying complaints to school principals, teachers, counselors, nurses, administrators, school resource officers and other instructional and noninstructional staff.</p> <p>The Code of Student Conduct, which shall contain this policy, shall be disseminated annually to all 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. References: School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 1302-A, 1303.1-A</p>
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	<p>State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec. 12.3</p> <p>Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act – 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1232g</p> <p>Board Policy – 103, 218, 233, 248</p>
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