

**SOUTHERN  
COLUMBIA AREA  
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: BULLYING/  
CYBERBULLYING

ADOPTED: December 15, 2008

REVISED:

<p>1. Purpose</p> <p>2. Definitions SC 1303.1-A</p> <p>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, and may lead to more serious violence. Therefore, the Board prohibits bullying by district students.</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 that is severe, persistent (repeatedly and over time) or pervasive and has the effect of doing any of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Substantial interference with a student’s education.</li> <li>2. Creation of a threatening environment.</li> <li>3. Substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school.</li> </ol> <p><b>Bullying</b>, as defined in this policy, includes cyberbullying.</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><b>Types of Bullying may include, but are not limited to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Direct bullying:</b> A negative action when somebody hits, pushes, kicks, pinches, or restrains another by physical contact. Direct bullying can also be carried out by words (verbally), by extortion, threatening, taunting, teasing and calling names.</li> <li>▪ <b>Indirect bullying:</b> Repeated over a period of time: negative gestures, intentionally excluding someone from a group, and spreading rumors.</li> <li>▪ <b>Cyber-bullying:</b> Using electronic device mediums such as, but not limited to, computers, cell phones, and pagers to bully others through methods such as posting comments or pictures on blogs or websites, text messaging, instant messaging, and e-mail.</li> </ul>
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<p>3. Authority SC 1303.1-A</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Relational Aggression:</b> Describes behavior which can undermine or destroy relationships and can be either physical and/or psychological in nature. This type of bullying may be carried out by a single individual or by a group. The target/victim of bullying can be a single individual or a group of students.</li> </ul> <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><i>Development of Educational Programs</i> - The Superintendent or designee shall develop administrative procedures and programs to increase the awareness of the problems of bullying, and train teachers to effectively intervene if bullying is witnessed in their presence or brought to their attention.</p> <p><i>Intervention</i> - Teachers who observe acts of bullying 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>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 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"> <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 responding to, intervening in and reporting incidents of bullying.</p> <p><u>Consequences For Violations</u></p>
<p>SC 1303.1-A Pol. 218, 233</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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Counseling within the school</li> <li>▪ Parent/Guardian conference</li> <li>▪ Loss of school privileges</li> <li>▪ Transfer to another classroom or school bus</li> <li>▪ Exclusion from school-sponsored activities</li> <li>▪ Detention</li> <li>▪ Suspension</li> <li>▪ Expulsion</li> <li>▪ Referral to law enforcement officials</li> </ul>

	<p>References:</p> <p>School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 1302-A, 1303.1-A</p> <p>State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec. 12.3</p> <p>Board Policy – 000, 218, 233, 236, 248</p>
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