



Book - Policy Manual
Section - 200 Pupils
Title - Bullying/Cyber Bullying
Code - 249
Status - Active
Adopted - December 2, 2008
Last Revised - September 24, 2013

Purpose

The Charters Valley Board of School Directors is committed to providing all students and employees with a safe and civil school environment in which all members of the school community are treated with dignity and respect and are free from harassment or bullying, in accordance with 22 PA Code § 12.3(c). The district 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, bullying is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated.[\[1\]](#)

Definitions

For the purpose of this policy, bullying shall mean an intentional electronic, written, verbal or physical act, or a series of acts:[\[2\]](#)

1. Directed at another student or students.
2. Which occurs in a school setting.
3. That is severe, persistent or pervasive.
4. That has the effect of doing any of the following:
 - a. Substantially interfering with a student's education.
 - b. Creating a threatening environment.
 - c. Substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

Bullying can take many forms and can include a variety of behaviors, such as:

1. Physical violence and attacks.
2. Verbal taunts, name calling and put-downs.
3. Emotional bullying, i.e. spreading rumors, ridiculing and manipulating social relationships.
4. Threats and intimidation.

5. Extortion or stealing.
6. Racial, ethnic or gender-based verbal or physical abuse.
7. Spreading false information about a person.
8. Cyberbullying.

Cyberbullying includes, but is not limited to, misuses of technology which have the effect of harassing, teasing, intimidating, or terrorizing another student, teacher or employee carried out by means of sending or posting inappropriate e-mail messages, instant messages, text messages, pictures, images or other text by means of computers or electronic devices. Inappropriate or derogatory use of personal profiles on web sites or other web site postings, etc., is also considered cyberbullying.

The terms bullying and cyberbullying shall not be interpreted to infringe upon a student's right to engage in legally protected speech or conduct.[3]

School setting shall mean in a school building, on school grounds, in school vehicles, at a designated bus stop or at any school-sponsored, supervised or sanctioned activity. Regardless whether the bullying occurs in the school setting or outside the school setting, such bullying is prohibited if it impacts the school environment and otherwise meets the definition set forth in this policy.[2]

Authority

The Board prohibits all forms of bullying by district students.[2]

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.

When a student's behavior indicates a threat to the safety of the student, other students, school employees, school facilities, the community or others, district staff shall report the student to the threat assessment team, in accordance with applicable law and Board policy.

Delegation of Responsibility

Each staff member shall be responsible to maintain an educational environment free of bullying and cyberbullying. Teachers and other staff (including, but not limited to secretaries, custodians, hall monitors, bus drivers, etc.) who observe acts of bullying shall take reasonable steps to intervene and stop such conduct, unless intervention would threaten the staff member's safety.

All incidents of bullying shall be immediately reported to the building principal or designee so it can be investigated promptly. The building principal or designee will appropriately take corrective action, ensure confidentiality and conduct proper follow-up communications with the parents/guardians.

Each student shall be responsible to respect the rights of others and maintain an environment free of bullying and cyberbullying. Students shall be encouraged to promptly report incidents of bullying and cyberbullying to the teacher, building principal or designee.

The Superintendent or designee may develop administrative regulations to implement this policy.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that this policy and administrative regulations are reviewed within ninety (90) days after its adoption and thereafter at least annually with students.[\[2\]](#)

District administration shall provide the following information with the annual Safe School Report:[\[2\]](#)

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

Guidelines

The student handbook and Code of Student Conduct will contain this policy, and shall be disseminated annually to students.[\[2\]](#)[\[1\]](#)[\[4\]](#)

The policy shall be accessible in every classroom and will be posted in a prominent location in each school building as well as on the district web site.

Education

The district may develop and implement bullying prevention and intervention programs. Such programs will provide district staff and students with appropriate training for effectively responding to, intervening in and reporting incidents of bullying.[\[5\]](#)[\[2\]](#)[\[6\]](#)

Consequences for Violations

A student who violates this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action, consistent with the student discipline code, which may include:[\[2\]](#)[\[4\]](#)[\[7\]](#)

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.

Review

The district shall review this policy at least every three (3) years in order to ensure compliance with applicable statutes.[\[2\]](#)

Legal

1. 22 PA Code 12.3

2. 24 P.S. 1303.1-A

3. Pol. 220

4. Pol. 218

5. 24 P.S. 1302-A

6. Pol. 236

7. Pol. 233

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