

BLOOMSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT Policy Manual

Section: PUPILS

Title: BULLYING/CYBERBULLYING

Date Adopted: 20 April 2009

Date Last Revised: 16 May 2011 Last Reviewed by Board on 19 May 2014

249. Bullying/Cyberbullying

.1 The Board of Directors of the Bloomsburg Area School District 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.

.2 **Bullying** means repeated electronic, written, verbal, or physical acts directed at another student or students, occurring in a school setting and/or outside a school setting (including a cyber setting) and carried over into school, and is so severe, persistent or pervasive that it has the effect of:

1. Substantially interfering with a student's education.
2. Creating a threatening environment.
3. Substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

This includes conduct that is based on a student's actual or perceived race, color, national origin, sex, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, religion, or any other distinguishing characteristic that may be defined by the state or local educational agency.

Extortion is the action of one student or a group of students to obtain or withhold the property of another student by force, threat of violence, or harm or intimidation.

School setting means in the school, on the school grounds, in school vehicles, at a designated bus stop, or any activity sponsored, supervised, or sanctioned by the school.

Types of Bullying in a school setting may include, but are not limited to:

- **Direct bullying:** A repeated negative action of hitting, pushing, kicking, pinching, or restraining another by physical contact. Direct bullying can also be carried out by words (verbally), such as name-calling, taunting, or teasing that creates a hostile educational environment, extortion or threats.

- **Indirect bullying:** Repeated over a period of time: negative gestures, intentionally excluding someone from a group, spreading rumors.
- **Cyberbullying:** Bullying through the use of 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 Web sites, text messaging, instant messaging, and e-mail.
- **Relational Aggression:** 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.

.3 The board prohibits all forms of bullying by district students.

The board encourages students who have been bullied to promptly report such incidents to the building principal or designee.

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 will be maintained. No reprisals or retaliation shall occur as a result of good faith reports of bullying. Written or electronic records of bullying shall be kept by the principal.

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

It shall be the responsibility of the students, parents/guardians, and all staff members who become aware of an act of bullying to report it to the building principal for further investigation.

The superintendent or his/her designee shall develop administrative regulations to implement this policy.

The superintendent or his/her designee shall ensure that this policy and administrative regulation are reviewed annually with students.

The superintendent or his/her designee, in cooperation with other appropriate administrators, shall review this policy every three (3) years and recommend necessary revisions to the board.

Bloomsburg Area School District administration shall annually provide the following information with the Safe School Report:

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

.5 The student handbook shall contain this policy and it shall be disseminated annually to students.

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.

.6 The district shall 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.

.7 A student who violates this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action as determined by the results of the principal's investigation. Consequences may include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Counseling.
2. Parent/guardian conference.
3. Detention.
4. Suspension.
5. Expulsion.
6. Transfer to another school building, classroom, or school bus.
7. Exclusion from school activities.
8. Development of a supervision plan with the parents/guardians.
9. Referral to law enforcement officials.

References:

School Code- 24 P.S. Sec. 1302-A, 1303.1-A

State Board of Education Regulations- 22Pa Code Sec 12.3

Board Policy-218,233,236