

# EAST STROUDSBURG AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

No. 249

SECTION: PUPILS  
TITLE: BULLYING  
/CYBERBULLYING  
ADOPTED: April 14, 2003  
REVISED: April 16, 2007  
November 17, 2008  
October 15, 2012  
April 14, 2014

## 249. BULLYING/CYBERBULLYING

### 1. Purpose

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.

### 2. Definitions SC 1303.1-A

**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 that is severe, persistent or pervasive and results in, or is likely to result in, any of the following:

1. Substantial interference with a student's education.
2. Creation of a threatening environment.
3. Substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school.

**Bullying** includes unwelcome verbal, written or physical conduct directed at a student by another student that has the intent of or effect of:

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.
6. Perpetuation of conduct by an individual or group, with the intent to demean, dehumanize, embarrass, or incite a student.

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**Bullying**, as defined in this policy, includes cyberbullying.

Cyberbullying means an intentional electronic act or series of acts, through the utilization of computers, the Internet, interactive and digital technologies, or electronic devices that are 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:

1. Substantial interference with a student's education.
2. Creation of a threatening environment.
3. Substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school.

Examples of cyberbullying include sending or posting inappropriate or derogatory e-mail 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 subject to appropriate disciplinary consequences, which may include legal and/or police proceedings.

Pol. 815

Additional information regarding the misuse of technology and/or cyberbullying may be found in Board Policy No. 815.

**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.

3. Authority  
SC 1303.1-A  
Pol. 248

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 other district employees.

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 and subject to the district's legal and investigative obligations.

No reprisals or retaliation shall occur as a result of good faith reports of bullying.

4. Delegation of  
Responsibility  
Pol. 103

In order to maintain an educational environment that discourages and prohibits bullying/cyberbullying, the Board designates the Superintendent as the school district's Compliance Officer. (Superintendent, 50 Vine Street, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301, 570-424-8500).

The Compliance Officer shall publish and disseminate this policy and the complaint procedure at least annually to students, parents, employees, independent contractors, vendors, and the public. The publication shall include the position, office address and telephone number of the Compliance Officer.

	<p>249. BULLYING/CYBERBULLYING—Pg. 3</p> <p><u>The administration shall be responsible to provide training for students and employees regarding all aspects of bullying/cyberbullying.</u></p> <p>Each staff member shall be responsible to maintain an educational environment free of bullying and cyberbullying.</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 any administrative regulations necessary to implement this policy.</p>
<p>5. Guidelines SC 1303.1-A Title 22 Sec. 12.3 Pol. 218</p>	<p><u>The school principal shall be responsible to complete the following duties when receiving a complaint of bullying/cyberbullying in addition to following the Complaint Procedure as outlined in No. 248-249AR:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>1. Inform the student or third party of the right to file a complaint and the complaint procedure.</u></li> <li><u>2. Inform the complainant that s/he may be accompanied by a parent/guardian during all steps of the complaint procedure.</u></li> <li><u>3. Notify the complainant and the accused of the progress at appropriate stages of the procedure.</u></li> <li><u>4. Refer the complainant to the Compliance Officer if the school principal is the subject of the complaint.</u></li> </ol> <p>The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that this policy and administrative regulations are 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>SC 1303.1-A 1202.1-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> </ol>
<p>Pol. 236</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Information on the development and implementation of any bullying prevention, intervention or education programs.</li> </ol>
<p>SC 1303.1-A Pol 218, 233</p>	<p>The Code of Student Conduct, which shall contain this policy, shall be disseminated annually to students.</p>

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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 website.

Education

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.

Consequences for Violation

A student who violates this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action consistent with the Code of Student Conduct, ~~which may include:~~

- ~~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. 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, 815

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