

School Board Policy Manual



No. 249

**Section:
Title:**

**Pupils
Bullying and
Cyberbullying
April 21, 2016**

**Date Adopted:
Revised:**

GUIDE	249. BULLYING AND CYBERBULLYING	REFERENCE
PURPOSE	<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 and cyberbullying in any form by district students.</p>	
AUTHORITY	<p>All forms of bullying and cyberbullying by school district students are prohibited. Anybody who engages in bullying or cyberbullying in violation of this policy shall be subject to appropriate discipline.</p>	Pol. 218, 233, 248
DEFINITION	<p>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 and/or outside a school setting that is severe, persistent or pervasive and has the effect of doing any of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Substantial interference with a student’s education 2. Creation of a threatening environment. 3. Substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school. <p>Bullying, as defined in this policy, includes cyberbullying.</p> <p>Cyberbullying shall mean forms of verbal and psychological bullying that occur through e-mail, instant messaging, and personal profile websites</p>	SC 1303.1-A

<p>DELEGATION OF RESPONSIBILITY</p>	<p>such as My Space/Facebook or through any communications devices. 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 inappropriate or derogatory e-mail messages, instant messages, text messages, digital pictures or images, or web site 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 the subject of appropriate discipline.</p> <p>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.</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 his/her fellow students and to ensure an atmosphere free from all forms of bullying and cyberbullying.</p> <p>The Board encourages students who have been bullied (including cyberbullying) to promptly report such incidents to school district employees, teachers or principals.</p> <p>The Board directs that complaints of bullying shall be investigated promptly, and corrective action shall be taken when allegations are verified. Any employee who observes or becomes aware of an act of bullying shall take immediate, appropriate steps to intervene unless the intervention would be a threat to staff members' safety. In that case, or if the bullying persists, s/he shall report the bullying to the school principal for further investigation, which may include interviews with students, staff, parents/guardians, and a review of records. Confidentiality of all parties shall be maintained, consistent with the district's legal and investigative</p>	<p>SC 1303.1-A</p>
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	<p>obligations.</p> <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>District administration shall annually provide the following information with Safe School Report:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Board’s Bullying Policy. 2. Report of bullying incidents. 3. Information on the development and implementation of any bullying prevention, intervention or education programs. <p>The Code of Student Conduct, which contains 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.</p>	<p>SC 1303.1-A</p>
<p>EDUCATION</p>	<p>Teachers, counselors, specialists, and school administrators will routinely discuss inappropriate use of social networking and bullying behavior and will provide appropriate examples to assist students with recognizing, identifying, and reporting bullying incidents. All students shall be informed that bullying will not be tolerated in any form. All students shall be encouraged to report any bullying regardless of whether they are the victim or an observer.</p>	<p>SC 1302-A, 1303.1-A</p>
<p>CONSEQUENCES FOR VIOLATIONS</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 any of the actions below and/or referral to law enforcement officials:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Counseling within the school 2. Parental conference 	<p>SC1303.1-A</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">3. Loss of school privileges4. Transfer to another school setting, classroom or school bus5. Exclusion from school-sponsored activities6. Detention7. Suspension8. Counseling/Therapy outside of school which may be at the individual's expense9. Expulsion	
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