

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION

PENN-TRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

APPROVED: July 16, 2018

REVISED:

249-AR-1. BULLYING/CYBERBULLYING/CYBERHARASSMENT

Pupil Bullying

The development and maintenance of self-discipline is an integral aspect of learning. Efforts at such development are not only critical to a student's growth as a learner, but are essential to maintain a school climate that encourages learning for all students. As such, the bullying of a student by other students will not be tolerated within the Penn-Trafford School District.

Board Policy and Regulation 249, provides information on the subject of bullying within the District. This policy is extended to the transportation of students to and from school. No student should be in an environment that makes him/her feel unsafe, intimidated, or abused. It is the practice of Penn-Trafford School District to maintain an environment in which bullying in any form is not tolerated. **Students engaging in this behavior may be subject to disciplinary actions including but not limited to: loss of bus riding privileges, parent conference, detention, suspension, expulsion from school, and police referral.**

Definition of Bullying

Bullying, as defined by law, 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 has the effect of doing any of the following:[\[1\]](#)

1. Substantial interference with a student's education.
2. Creation of a threatening environment.
3. Substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school. For the purposes of this policy, bullying is defined as follows:

“A person is bullied when he or she is exposed, repeatedly and over time, to negative actions on the part of one or more other persons, and he or she has difficulty defending himself or herself.”

Olweus Bullying Prevention Program

Bullying is aggressive behavior that involves unwanted, negative actions.[\[1\]](#)

Bullying involves a pattern of behavior repeated over time.

Bullying involves an imbalance of power or strength.

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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.[1]

Types of bullying may include, but are not limited to:

Direct Bullying - 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.

Indirect Bullying - repeated over a period of time: negative gestures, intentionally excluding someone from a group, and spreading rumors.

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 the 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.

The offense of "cyberbullying/cyberharassment" would include:

- Making seriously disparaging statements about a child's physical characteristics
- Sexual activity
- Mental or physical health
- Threats to inflict harm

"Seriously disparaging statement or opinion" is now defined as "a statement or opinion which is intended to and under the circumstances is reasonably likely to cause substantial emotional distress to a child of the victim's age and which produces some physical manifestation of the distress.

The harassment could be made electronically, either directly to the child or through social media.

Bullying Procedures

Reporting Procedures

1. The building principal, assistant principal and head teacher are identified as staff who are responsible for receiving reports, documenting alleged bullying, and publicizing that information as set forth below. Any complaint received should include specifics of the problem, what happened, who was involved, any witnesses, and any other relevant information. The complaint should also include how the alleged problem has affected the victim and what they would like done about the problem.

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2. The staff person responsible for receiving reports of bullying will document and investigate each alleged incident.
3. Annually, the building principal will compile a report for the District administration to be incorporated into the District safety report to the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Disciplinary Consequences

Disciplinary consequences will be based on the seriousness and repetitiveness of the behavior and may include the following:

1. Parent conference;
2. Loss of privileges, including limitations on participation in extracurricular activities;
3. Referral to Student Assistance Program;
4. Detention;
5. Suspension;
6. Risk assessment; and
7. Police contact.

Publicity

1. These Bullying Procedures and the definition of bullying set forth in this Regulation will be posted on a publicly accessible page of Penn-Trafford School District's website.
2. Within 90 days of the effective date of this Regulation, each school will introduce this policy to its students and explain the procedures for reporting bullying incidents.
3. Once each school year, each school will review with its students these Bullying Procedures.
4. Building administrators or designees will ensure that these Bullying Procedures and the definition of bullying set forth in this Regulation is posted in each classroom and in a prominent location within the school building.

Review of Bullying Procedures

The Superintendent or designee, in cooperation with other appropriate administrators, shall review these Bullying Procedures every three (3) years and recommend necessary revisions to the Board.

School Code - 24 P.S. Sec. 1302-A, 1303. I-A
State Board of Education Regulations - 22 PA Code Sec. 12.3