

PENN-TRAFFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: BULLYING

ADOPTED: December 2, 2008

REVISED: November 12, 2012;
August 11, 2014

	<p style="text-align: center;">249. BULLYING</p> <p>1. Purpose The purpose of this policy is to maintain a safe, positive environment for students and staff that is free from bullying. Bullying activities of any type are inconsistent with the educational goals of the district and are prohibited at all times.</p> <p>2. Authority SC 1303.1-A The Board prohibits all forms of bullying of students and third parties by all district students, staff members, contracted individuals, vendors, volunteers, and third parties in the schools. The Board encourages students and third parties who have been bullied to promptly report such incidents to the designated employees.</p> <p>The Board directs that complaints of bullying shall be investigated promptly, and corrective action be taken when allegations are substantiated. Confidentiality of all parties shall be maintained, consistent with the district’s legal and investigative obligations.</p> <p>No reprisals nor retaliation shall occur as a result of good faith charges of bullying and intimidation.</p> <p>3. Definition 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:</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><i>For the purposes of this policy, bullying is defined as follows:</i> <i>“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</i></p>
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<p>4. Delegation of Responsibility</p> <p>SC 1303.1-A</p> <p>SC 1303.1-A</p>	<p>Bullying is aggressive behavior that involves unwanted, negative actions. Bullying involves a pattern of behavior repeated over time. Bullying involves an imbalance of power or strength.</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>Types of bullying may include, but are not limited to:</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Indirect Bullying - repeated over a period of time: negative gestures, intentionally excluding someone from a group, and spreading rumors.</p> <p>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:</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>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.</p> <p>The district expects employees who observe or become aware of an act of bullying to immediately intervene and report the bullying to the school administration for further investigation. Students who feel they have been a victim of bullying behavior are encouraged to tell a trusted school district employee. The district expects and encourages students and adults who become aware of an act of bullying to report it to the school administration for investigation.</p> <p>The Superintendent or designee shall develop administrative regulations to implement this policy.</p> <p>The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that this policy and administrative regulations are reviewed annually with students.</p>
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<p>SC 1303.1-A</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</p>	<p>District administration shall annually provide the following information with the 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 program.
<p>SC 1303.1-A Pol. 218, 233</p>	<p><u>Consequences For Violations</u> A Student who violates this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action consistent with the Code of Student Conduct and District policy.</p> <p>Any student who retaliates against another for reporting bullying will be subject to disciplinary action. When deemed necessary by school officials, information will be filed with the civil authorities for violations of the Pennsylvania criminal code.</p> <p>References: Board Policy – 103, 218, 248</p>