

NORTHEAST BRADFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: BULLYING/CYBERBULLYING

ADOPTED: April 19, 2007

REVISED: September 10, 2012

<p>1. Purpose</p> <p>2. Definitions SC 1303.1-A</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">247. BULLYING/CYBERBULLYING</p> <p>The district is committed to providing all students and employees with the right to a safe and civil educational environment, free from harassment or bullying. The district recognizes that bullying interferes with the learning process, and may present an obstacle to the academic, vocational, and social/emotional development of students.</p> <p>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>Bullying, as defined in this policy, includes cyberbullying.</p> <p>Cyberbullying - forms of verbal and psychological bullying may also occur on the Internet through email, instant messaging, or personal profile websites such as MySpace. 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 email 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 the subject of appropriate discipline.</p> <p>The school will be a resource for parents/guardians when these acts occur; however, schools will not apply discipline for acts of cyberbullying unless the administrator finds:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The act of cyberbullying occurred on school property or on school computers.
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<p>Pol. 220</p> <p>3. Authority SC 1303.1-A</p> <p>4. Delegation of Responsibility</p>	<p>2. The act of cyberbullying was accessed by students in school.</p> <p>3. The act of cyberbullying is part of an ongoing pattern of bullying defined above.</p> <p>Bullying shall mean unwelcome verbal, written or physical conduct directed at a student by another student that has the intent of or effect of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>The terms bullying and cyberbullying shall not be interpreted to infringe upon a student’s right to engage in legally protected speech or conduct.</p> <p>The Board prohibits all forms of bullying by district students.</p> <p>It shall be a violation of this policy for any student to bully another student on district grounds, at any school activity, or on the way to or from 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>Students shall be encouraged to report bullying or cyberbullying complaints to district employees.</p> <p>All employees who receive a bullying or cyberbullying complaint shall investigate to determine if bullying or cyberbullying has occurred. If the behavior is found to meet the definition of bullying or cyberbullying, written documentation must be submitted to the building principal.</p> <p>The building principal or his/her designee will inform parents/guardians of the victim and person accused.</p>
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<p>SC 1303.1-A</p>	<p>The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that this policy and administrative regulations are reviewed annually with students.</p>
<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 programs.
<p>5. Guidelines SC 1303.1-A Title 22 Sec. 12.3 Pol. 218</p>	<p>The Code of Student Conduct, which shall contain this policy, shall be disseminated annually to students.</p> <p><u>Investigation Procedures</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A student shall report a complaint of bullying or cyberbullying, orally or in writing, to the teachers, building administrator, or counselor. 2. The building administrator will investigate the alleged conduct that occurred. 3. The building administrator may ask assistance from other district employees in the investigation process. 4. After the investigation, the building principal or designee shall be notified in writing of the complaint and the results of the investigation and shall take corrective action to ensure that the conduct ceases. <p><u>Consequences/Intervention</u></p>
<p>SC 1303.1-A Pol. 218, 233</p>	<p>Consequences for students who bully others will be subject to disciplinary options that may include counseling, a parent/guardian conference, detention, suspension or other consequences as provided in the Code of Student Conduct.</p>

<p>20 U.S.C. Sec. 1232g 34 CFR Part 99 Pol. 216</p> <p>Pol. 218, 233</p>	<p><u>Confidentiality</u></p> <p>The district recognizes that both the complaining student and the alleged bully/extorter have a strong interest in maintaining the confidentiality of the allegations and related information. The privacy of the complaining student, the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses will be respected as much as possible, consistent with legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to comply with Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and any discovery or disclosure obligations. As limited by FERPA protections, the principal or his/her designee may inform the complaining student and/or parents/guardians of the outcome of the investigation.</p> <p><u>Reprisal</u></p> <p>Any student who retaliates against another student for reporting bullying or extortion or for assisting or testifying in the investigation or hearing may be subject to disciplinary action.</p> <p>References:</p> <p>School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 1302-A, 1303.1-A</p> <p>State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec. 12.3</p> <p>Family Educational Rights And Privacy Act – 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1232g</p> <p>Family Educational Rights and Privacy, Title 34, Code of Federal Regulations – 34 CFR Part 99</p> <p>Board Policy – 000, 216, 218, 220, 233, 236, 248</p>
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