

LACKAWANNA TRAIL SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: BULLYING/CYBERBULLYING

ADOPTED: MARCH 15, 2010

REVISED: March 13, 2017

249. BULLYING/CYBERBULLYING	
1. Purpose	<p>The Lackawanna Trail School District Board of School Directors is committed to providing all students with a safe, healthy, and civil school environment in which all members of the school community are treated with mutual respect, tolerance, and dignity, and recognizes that bullying presents an obstacle to social and emotional development of students. To that end, the school district has in place policies, procedures and practices that are designed to reduce and eliminate bullying and harassment by district students when they occur.</p>
2. Authority SC 510, 1303.1-A Title 22 Sec. 12.3 Pol. 218	<p>This policy is in effect while students are on property within jurisdiction of the school district; while on school-contracted or school-operated vehicles; and while attending or engaged in school-sponsored activities. Students who file a bullying complaint or who have assisted or participated in any manner in a bullying investigation may not be retaliated against.</p> <p>Any violation of this policy shall be considered an infraction of the Code of Conduct, with discipline implemented accordingly. All bullying behavior that is a violation of the PA crimes Code will be reported to the appropriate legal authorities.</p>
SC 1303.1-A	<p>The Board encourages students who have been bullied to promptly report such incidents to the building principal or designee.</p>
3. Definitions	<p>- Bullying shall mean an intentional electronic, written, verbal or physical act, or series of acts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Directed at another student or students; and,2. Which occurs in a school setting or impacts the school setting; and,3. That is severe, persistent or pervasive; and,

<p>Pol. 218, 233</p> <p>SC 1303.1-A</p> <p>SC 1303.1-A</p> <p>SC 1303.1-A</p>	<p>Each student shall be responsible in respecting the rights of his/her fellow students, to ensure the rights of his/her fellow students, and to ensure an atmosphere free from all forms of bullying.</p> <p>The Board expects that students and parents/guardians who become aware of an act of bullying shall report it to a school officially (usually the building principal) for further investigation. Any student who retaliates against another person for reporting bullying, intimidation and/or assault shall be subject to further disciplinary action.</p> <p>Students shall be informed about the policy on the district's publicly accessible Internet website, and in every classroom. The policy shall be posted at a prominent location within each school building where such notices are usually posted. Each school building principal shall ensure that the policy and procedures for reporting bullying incidents are reviewed with students within ninety (90) days after the adoption of this policy and thereafter at least once each school year.</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 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.
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Reporting Procedures

Victims-

All students who believe they have been the victim of bullying shall promptly report the bullying incident to a teacher, counselor, or building administrator.

Parents/Guardians -

All parents/guardians who become aware of any bullying are encouraged to report the bullying incident(s) to a building administrator.

Witnesses-

All students who witness bullying shall immediately report the bullying incident(s) to a teacher, counselor, or administrator. Any teacher, counselor or administrator who witnesses bullying shall immediately intervene and take appropriate action to stop the bullying.

Teachers/Counselors

Any teacher or counselor who witnesses bullying or receives a report of bullying shall document such incident and promptly investigate the matter. Administrators shall seek to discuss the bullying incident(s) with the victim in a place where the victim feels secure. The initial discussion with the victim shall not take place in the presence of the offending student(s). If more than one (1) student is involved in perpetrating the bullying, the administrator shall talk to each of the offending students separately. After the investigation has been completed, the building principal shall take appropriate actions consistent with this policy.

Disciplinary and Other Actions

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 with 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. Counseling/Therapy outside of school.
10. Referral to law enforcement officials.

SC 1303.1-A
Pol. 21E, 233

<p>Pol. 218,233</p>	<p>If an investigation substantiates that bullying has occurred, a written record of the incident shall be placed in the file of the offending student(s). The district recognizes that parents/guardians can plan an important role in educating their children and preventing bullying. Accordingly, the parents/guardians of each offending student shall be informed of any bullying incidents involving their child. Parents/Guardians of the offending students will be encouraged to attend one (1) or more conferences with an administrator to review the bullying behavior and cooperative strategies for correcting it. The building principal or designee shall also inform the victims parents/guardians of any and all bullying incidents involving their child.</p>
<p>Pol. 218, 233</p>	<p>Disciplinary action shall be in accordance with the Board approved Code of Student Conduct. Depending on the severity of the offense, the disciplinary action for bullying may include loss of privileges, removal from class, suspensions, and a Board expulsion hearing. If the investigation has determined that the conduct rises to the level of a crime, disciplinary action may also include referral to law enforcement officials. In addition to imposing any disciplinary action, the building administrator will discuss the bullying behavior with the offending student and the parent/ guardian and review why the behavior is inappropriate.</p> <p>In some circumstances, mediation may be used as a viable alternative or in addition to disciplinary action when addressing a first offense of bullying. The building administrator shall consider the nature and sensitivity of the offense in determining whether mediation is appropriate. Mediation shall not be used without the consent of the victim and their parent/guardian, or where the building administrator has a concern about retaliation begin perpetrated against the victim. Victims shall not be pressured into participating in mediation. The Lackawanna Trail School District Board of Directors recognizes that a severe imbalance exists between the victim and the bully and that his imbalance can make mediation an intimidating situation for the victim.</p> <p>All incidents of confirmed bullying, including those that are mediated, shall be recorded in writing and placed in the offending student's discipline file.</p>
<p>Pol. 247, 248</p>	<p>The penalties and prohibitions in this policy are in addition to, and do not replace or supersede, any related provisions in district prohibiting conduct such as harassment, violence, assault, and hazing.</p> <p>References:</p> <p>School Code 24 P.S. Sec. 510, 1302-A, 1303.1.A</p> <p>State Board of Education Regulations — 22 PA Code</p> <p>12.3 Board Policy — 218, 233, 236, 247, 248, 815</p>