

Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Bullying/Cyberbullying
Code	249
Status	Active
Adopted	February 19, 2007
Last Revised	August 8, 2018

Purpose

The Wyoming Valley West School District will be committed to providing a compassionate, receptive, and nonthreatening atmosphere for each and every one of our pupils to learn and succeed. If bullying/cyberbullying does occur, students should be assured of the fact that all incidents will be addressed quickly, thoroughly, and efficiently. It is expected that anyone - whether student, educator, family member, or other school party - who witnesses or has other knowledge of an incident of bullying/cyberbullying, will report the incident to a staff member immediately and with the promise of confidentiality, if desired.

Creating and maintaining a safe and welcoming learning environment for all students is a high priority in all district schools. A safe school environment free from bullying/cyberbullying is necessary for pupils to learn and achieve high academic standards. Bullying/Cyberbullying behavior disrupts the educational process; therefore, it will not be tolerated on school property, in school vehicles, school grounds, at school-sponsored events, or during travel to and from school.

Definitions

Under this policy, **bullying** is a form a harassment in which behavior is intended, or perceived to intend, to harm or cause distress to another. The action occurs repeatedly over time and, in addition to causing harm or distress, has the effect of insulting or demeaning a student or group of students in such a way as to cause disruption of the orderly operation of the school. Bullying may be physical, verbal, written, electronically transmitted or psychological. It may include, but is not limited to, actions such as verbal taunts, physical aggression, extortion of money or possessions, exclusion from peer groups within the school, name-calling, and derogatory statements, including any discriminatory statement. Bullying is not a mutual confrontation between two (2) students or a group of students (i.e., fighting with another student in which the altercation is mutual, requiring restraint or resulting in injury or property damage).

Cyberbullying includes, but is not limited to, the following misuses of technology: harassing, teasing, intimidating, threatening, or terrorizing another student or staff member by way of any technological tool, such as sending or posting inappropriate or derogatory email messages, instant messages, text messages, digital pictures or images, or web site postings (including blogs) which has the effect of:

1. Physically, emotionally or mentally harming a student.
2. Placing a student in reasonable fear of physical, emotional or mental harm.
3. Placing a student in reasonable fear of damage to or loss of personal property.

4. Creating an intimidating or hostile environment that substantially interferes with a student's educational opportunities.

Authority

The School Board prohibits all forms of bullying/cyberbullying behavior on school property, in school vehicles, at school-sponsored events, or during travel to and from school. Any violation of this policy shall be considered an infraction of the Student Code of Conduct, with discipline implemented accordingly. All bullying/ cyberbullying behavior that is a violation of the PA Crimes Code will be reported to law enforcement.[\[1\]](#)

Delegation of Responsibility

Any person discovering bullying/cyberbullying shall report the incident to a school teacher, counselor or administrator. School staff will provide immediate interventions consistent with this school policy. Students are encouraged to immediately report bullying/cyberbullying.

Guidelines

When a student believes that s/he is a victim of bullying/cyberbullying, the student shall report a complaint of bullying/cyberbullying, orally or in writing, to the building principal, counselor, teacher, or another school employee.

All school employees are required to report alleged violations of this policy to the building principal or the principal's designee.

The principal or the principal's designee will investigate the incident and maintain a confidential record in the discipline file of both the victim(s) and bully(ies).

The building principal or designee will contact the parent/guardian of both the bully and victim.

Appropriate consequences and remedial actions range from positive behavioral interventions to and including suspension, and may include separating the student(s) being bullied/cyberbullied from the perpetrator(s). Any violation of the PA Crimes Code will be reported to law enforcement.

Victims and their parents/guardians shall be made aware of appropriate counseling and agency services available.

The district prohibits reprisal or retaliation against any person who reports a relevant act of bullying/cyberbullying. The principal will determine the consequences and remedial actions. Any violation of the PA Crimes Code will be reported to law enforcement.

The principal will determine the consequences and remedial actions for a pupil found to have falsely accused another as a means of harassment, intimidation or bullying/cyberbullying. Any violation of the PA Crimes Code will be reported to law enforcement.

The following are specific things that teachers can do to help prevent bullying/cyberbullying:

1. Make it clear to students that bullying/cyberbullying will not be tolerated in the classroom, in the hallways, on the playground, or anywhere at school.
2. Ensure students that if anyone has a problem with bullying/cyberbullying, that s/he can talk to you about it in person or by writing you a note about what happened.
3. Immediately take action when you see bullying/cyberbullying, name calling, or harassment happen in your presence.

4. Help students identify themselves as allies for victimized students.
5. If students report bullying/cyberbullying, make sure that the bullies are confronted and that the victims, bystanders, and allies are protected.
6. Have students write what they think a bully is and discuss it out loud.
7. Work with other teachers to share ideas on what you are doing in your classroom to teach about and prevent bullying/cyberbullying.
8. Compile with your students a list of strategies for dealing with bullies/cyberbullies and post them in your classroom.

The following is a list of strategies to help students deal with bullies/cyberbullies:

1. Walk away from a bully.
2. Ignore the bully.
3. Tell someone like a teacher, parent/guardian, or friend that can help.
4. Try to be nice to the bully.
5. Try to be tricky.
6. Go to class to talk about problems with bullies.
7. Stand behind the person being bullied.
8. Go out of your way to make new friends to make yourself feel better.
9. Use humor.
10. Stay with other people so that you are not alone.
11. Do not give the bully the power to change your life.
12. Do not fight back.

The administrators' role in bully prevention:

1. Administration must make it clear that any form of bullying/cyberbullying will not be tolerated.
2. Students will be made aware of the faculty and staff's attitudes toward bullying/cyberbullying.
3. There will be appropriate consequences for students who choose to be bullies/cyberbullies.
4. A full investigation will take place when bullying/cyberbullying issues are reported, and everyone involved will be treated fairly.
5. Parents/Guardians will be informed of bullying/cyberbullying incidents regarding their child.
6. All campus monitors, janitorial staff, office staff, and cafeteria staff will be notified on what to do if a child reports a bullying/cyberbullying incident to them.

Disposition of a Bully

Counseling, corrective discipline, and/or referral to law enforcement will be used to change the behavior of the perpetrator and remediate the impact on the victim. This includes age-appropriate

intervention(s), restoration of a positive climate, and support for victims, as well as others impacted.

Legal

[1. 24 P.S. 1303.1-A](#)

[20 U.S.C. 7118](#)

[22 PA Code 12.3](#)

[24 P.S. 1302-A](#)

Pol. 103

Pol. 103.1

Pol. 113.1

Pol. 218

Pol. 233