

LINE MOUNTAIN SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: BULLYING/CYBERBULLYING

ADOPTED: February 27, 2007

REVISED: August 23, 2011; March 26, 2019

July 27, 2021; November 11, 2025

249. BULLYING/CYBERBULLYING

1. Purpose

The Board is committed to providing a safe, positive learning environment for district students. The Board recognizes that bullying creates an atmosphere of fear and intimidation, detracts from the safe environment necessary for student learning, and may lead to more serious violence. Therefore, the Board prohibits bullying by district students.

2. Definition SC 1303.1-A

Bullying 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, which 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.

Bullying, as defined in this policy, includes cyberbullying.

Bullying includes, but is not limited to, the following examples:

Physical – hitting, kicking, spitting, pushing, stealing and/or damaging personal belongings, sexual acts, and invasion of one's personal space in an aggressive manner

Emotional – taunting, malicious teasing, name-calling, making threats, sexual remarks, spreading rumors, manipulating social relationships or environment, engaging in social exclusion, extortion, ridiculing, and intimidating.

SC 1303.1-A

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.

Authority

3. Authority

The Board prohibits all forms of bullying by district students.

The Board encourages students who believe they or others have been bullied to promptly report such incidents to the building principal or designee.

4. Delegation of Responsibility	Students are encouraged to use the district's report form, available from the building principal, or to put the complaint in writing; however, oral complaints shall be accepted and documented. The person accepting the complaint shall handle the report objectively, neutrally and professionally, setting aside personal biases that might favor or disfavor the student filing the complaint or those accused of a violation of this policy. The Board directs that verbal and written complaints of bullying shall be investigated promptly, and appropriate corrective or preventative action be taken when allegations are substantiated. The Board directs that any complaint of bullying brought pursuant to this policy shall also be reviewed for conduct which may not be proven to be bullying under this policy but merits review and possible action under other Board policies. <u>Title IX Sexual Harassment and Other Discrimination</u> Every report of alleged bullying that can be interpreted at the outset to fall within the provisions of policies addressing potential violations of laws against discrimination shall be handled as a joint, concurrent investigation into all allegations and coordinated with the full participation of the Title IX Coordinator/Compliance Officer. If, in the course of a bullying investigation, potential issues of discrimination are identified, the Title IX Coordinator/Compliance Officer shall be promptly notified, and the investigation shall be conducted jointly and concurrently to address the issues of alleged discrimination as well as the incidents of alleged bullying. <u>Confidentiality</u> Confidentiality of all parties, witnesses, the allegations, the filing of a complaint and the investigation shall be handled in accordance with applicable law, regulations, this policy and the district's legal and investigative obligations. <u>Retaliation</u> Reprisal or retaliation relating to reports of bullying or participation in an investigation of allegations of bullying is prohibited and shall be subject to disciplinary action. <u>Delegation of Responsibility</u> Each student shall be responsible to respect the rights of others and to ensure an atmosphere free from bullying. The Superintendent or designee shall develop administrative regulations to implement this policy. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that this policy and administrative
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7. Suspension.
8. Expulsion.
9. Counseling/Therapy outside of school.
10. Referral to law enforcement officials.

Legal

1. 24 P.S. 1303.1-A
2. Pol. 103
3. Pol. 103.1
4. Pol. 218
5. 22 PA Code 12.3
6. 20 U.S.C. 7118
7. 24 P.S. 1302-A
8. Pol. 236
9. Pol. 233
- Pol. 113.1

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Examples of Possible Bullying Behavior

Below is a non-exhaustive list of examples of possible bullying behavior:

1. Intimidating/threatening/demeaning letters, notes, messages, emails, texts, postings, and/or social media communications.
2. Verbally intimidating/threatening comments, slurs, innuendos, or taunting.
3. Visual gestures.
4. Physical hitting, slapping, kicking, pinching, or similar conduct.
5. Making reprisals, threats of reprisal, or implied threats of reprisal.
6. Forced social isolation or manipulation of a student.
7. Implicit or explicit coercive behavior to control, influence, or affect the health and well-being of a student.
8. Other behavior or acts which has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education, creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment, or substantially disrupts the orderly operation of the school.

Reporting & Investigation Procedures

Students who believe they or others have been subjected to bullying are encouraged to promptly report such incidents to their principal, assistant principal, athletic director, school counselor, coach/activity sponsor, or other trusted school official. In the event a report is received by an individual other than the building principal, the building principal shall be notified so that a proper investigation may begin.

Complaints of bullying by a student against another student shall be handled in the same manner as other student disciplinary investigations. Upon receipt of a complaint of bullying the building principal or designee shall determine what, if any interim measures should be put in place to protect students from further bullying or similar conduct.

If, in the course of a bullying investigation, potential issues of Title IX sexual harassment are identified (as defined in Board Policy 248), the Title IX Coordinator shall be promptly notified. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Administrative Guideline or the accompanying Board Policy, any complaints or allegations

raised under this Administrative Guideline or the accompanying Board Policy that could be construed as an allegation or complaint of Title IX sexual harassment must be referred to the Title IX Coordinator and handled in accordance with the procedures set forth in District Policy.

Parents/Guardians, coaches, activity sponsors, volunteers, District employees, representatives, agents, and contractors shall be alert to incidents of bullying and potential bullying and shall promptly report such conduct to their immediate supervisor or the appropriate building principal. In the event a report is received by an individual other than the building principal, the building principal shall be notified so that a proper investigation may begin.

Employees who fail to report known instances of bullying shall be subject to appropriate discipline, in accordance with applicable law and any applicable collective bargaining agreement.

The Superintendent or designee shall report incidents of bullying as required by law and contemplated in the memorandum of understanding in effect with local law enforcement.

Disciplinary Consequences

Disciplinary consequences will be imposed in accordance with Board Policy, school rules, and applicable law.

Publicity

This Administrative Guideline and the accompanying Board Policy will be posted on a publicly accessible page of the District's website.

At least once each school year, each building principal or designee shall review with students the contents of this Administrative Guideline and the accompanying Board Policy.

Building administrators or their designees will ensure that this Administrative Guideline and the accompanying Board Policy are available in all classrooms and posted in a prominent location in each school building.