

CHESTER COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT 24

SECTION: PUPILS
TITLE: BULLYING/
CYBERBULLYING
ADOPTED: JUNE 15, 2011
REVISED: SEPTEMBER 18, 2020

249. BULLYING/CYBERBULLYING

<u>Policy Section</u>	<u>Policy Description</u>
1. Purpose	<p>The Board is committed to providing a safe, positive learning environment for its 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 students enrolled in Intermediate Unit-operated schools, classes, programs or activities.</p>
2. Definitions	<p>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 and/or outside 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 an Intermediate Unit school, class or program. <p>Bullying, as defined in this policy, includes cyberbullying.</p> <p>Cyberbullying means the use of any electronic communications devices to convey a message in any form (text, image, audio or video) that defames, intimidates, harasses, insults or humiliates another student or students in a severe, persistent or pervasive manner that results in any of the bullying effects enumerated in this policy.</p> <p>School setting means in an Intermediate Unit school or facility, on Intermediate Unit grounds, in Intermediate Unit-owned, operated or contracted vehicles, at a designated bus stop or at any activity sponsored, supervised or sanctioned by the Intermediate Unit.</p> <p>Legal Reference: SC 1303.1-A</p>
3. Authority	<p>The Board prohibits all forms of bullying by students enrolled in Intermediate Unit-operated activities or programs.</p>

<p>4. Delegation of Responsibility</p>	<p>The Board prohibits the use of the Intermediate Unit’s computers or other electronic devices, including those lent to students, and Intermediate Unit servers to contact students or staff for the purpose of intimidating, harassing, insulting, or threatening students or staff.</p> <p>The Board encourages students who have been bullied to promptly report such incidents to the building principal or other designated program supervisor or teacher.</p> <p>The Board directs that verbal and written complaints of bullying shall be investigated promptly, and corrective action shall be taken when allegations are substantiated.</p> <p>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.</p> <p><u>Title IX Sexual Harassment and Other Discrimination</u></p> <p>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 Compliance Officer and Title IX Coordinator. If, in the course of a bullying investigation, potential issues of discrimination are identified, the Title IX Coordinator 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.[2][3]</p> <p><u>Confidentiality</u></p> <p>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 Intermediate Unit’s legal and investigative obligations.</p> <p><u>Retaliation</u></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Legal Reference: SC 1303.1-A, Pol. 815</p> <p>Each student shall be responsible to respect the rights of others and to ensure an atmosphere free from bullying.</p> <p>The Executive Director or designee shall develop administrative regulations to implement this policy. Administrative regulations may be incorporated into applicable student discipline codes and the Intermediate Unit’s Internet Acceptable Use Agreement.</p>
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<p>5. Guidelines SC 1303.1-A Title 22 Sec. 12.3 Pol. 218</p>	<p>The Executive Director or designee shall ensure that this policy, administrative regulations and applicable student discipline codes are reviewed annually with students.</p> <p>The Executive Director 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>The Intermediate Unit administration shall annually provide the following information with the Safe School Report:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Board's Bullying/Cyberbullying Policy.2. Report of bullying incidents.3. Information on the development and implementation of any bullying prevention, intervention or education programs. <p>Legal Reference: Pol. 218, 815, SC 1303.1-A, SC 1303.1-A</p> <p>The applicable student discipline codes, which shall contain this policy, shall be disseminated annually to students.</p> <p>This policy shall be accessible in every Intermediate Unit classroom. The policy shall be posted in a prominent location within each Intermediate Unit building and on the web site.</p> <p><u>Education</u></p> <p>The Intermediate Unit may develop and implement bullying prevention and intervention programs. Such programs shall provide Intermediate Unit staff and students with appropriate training for effectively responding to, intervening in and reporting incidents of bullying.</p> <p><u>Consequences For Violations</u></p> <p>A student who violates this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action consistent with the applicable Student Discipline Code, which may include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Counseling within the Intermediate Unit or school.2. Parental conference.3. Loss of school privileges.4. Loss of computer use privileges.5. Loss of Internet access.6. Transfer to another school building, classroom or school bus.
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249. BULLYING/CYBERBULLYING - Pg. 4

References:	<ol style="list-style-type: none">7. Exclusion from Intermediate Unit-sponsored activities.8. Detention.9. Suspension.10. Expulsion.11. Counseling/Therapy outside of the Intermediate Unit or school.12. Referral to law enforcement officials. <p>Legal Reference: SC 1302-A, 1303.1-A, Pol. 236, SC 1303.1-A, Pol. 218, 233</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>Board Policy – 000, 218, 233, 236, 248, 815</p>
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