

West Chester Area School District

SECTION: PUPILS
TITLE: BULLYING
ADOPTED: 8/25/08

	BULLYING
1. Purpose	<p>The West Chester Area School District recognizes that bullying and intimidation have a negative effect on the learning environment. Students who are intimidated and fearful cannot give their education the single-minded attention needed for success. Bullying can also lead to more serious violence. Every student has a right to an education and to be safe in and around school.</p>
2. Definitions SC 1303.1-A(E)	<p>Bullying is 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: (1) substantially interfering with a student's education; (2) creating a threatening environment; or (3) substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.</p> <p>Examples of acts or series of acts that may constitute bullying if it meets the preceding definition include, but are not limited to, physical intimidation or assault; extortion; oral or written threats; teasing; putdowns; name calling; threatening looks, gestures or actions; cruel rumors; false accusations; and social isolation. Note, mutual "teasing" should not be confused with bullying behavior.</p> <p>Bullying behavior accomplished through electronic mediums, including but not limited to, computers, Internet, instant messaging, email, and social networking sites shall be subject to this policy.</p> <p>School setting is 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.</p>
3. Authority	<p>It is the Board's belief that in order to foster an ideal learning environment, bullying of any student shall not be tolerated.</p>
4. Delegation of Responsibility SC 1303.1-A(A)	<p>School Personnel Intervention</p> <p>The District expects school personnel who observe or become aware of an act or series of acts that s/he believes to constitute bullying to take immediate, appropriate steps to intervene, unless such intervention would be a threat to the school personnel's safety. If the school personnel are unable to intervene, believe that his/her intervention has not resolved the matter, or the</p>



Bullying

<p>5. Guidelines</p> <p>SC 1303.1-A(A)</p>	<p>objectionable action persists, s/he shall report the bullying to the school principal or his/her designee for further investigation.</p> <p>Reporting by Students or Parents</p> <p>The District expects students and parents who observe or become aware of an act or series of acts that they believe to constitute bullying to report it to the school principal or his/her designee for further investigation.</p> <p>Investigation Procedures</p> <p>Upon learning of a bullying incident, the principal or his/her designee shall contact the parents of both the alleged aggressor and the alleged subject of the aggression, interview both students and thoroughly investigate. This investigation may include, but is not limited to, interviews with students, parents and school personnel; review of school records; and identification of parent and family issues.</p> <p>All employees shall cooperate with any investigation conducted under this policy or by any local, state or federal agency.</p> <p>Consequences/Intervention</p> <p>Students found to have bullied others shall be subject to the consequences set forth in Board Policy JD-R, Student Discipline. Further, students may be subject to counseling.</p> <p>Depending on the severity of the incident, the principal or his/her designee may also take appropriate steps to ensure student safety. These may include, but are not limited to, implementing a safety plan; separating and supervising the students involved; providing staff support for students as necessary; reporting incidents to law enforcement, if appropriate; and developing a supervision plan with parents.</p> <p>Programs</p> <p>The District may elect to develop and implement bullying prevention, intervention or educational programs.</p> <p>Retaliation</p> <p>Retaliation against students, school personnel or other persons who report bullying pursuant to this policy or who participate in any related proceeding is prohibited. The Board deems retaliatory acts as harmful as bullying acts and shall take appropriate action against students who retaliate against any student, school personnel or other person who reports alleged bullying or participates in</p>
--	--



Bullying

<p>6. Notice Requirements SC 1303.1-A(B), (C)</p>	<p>related proceedings. Such action may include discipline up to and including expulsion.</p> <p>False Charges Students who knowingly make false charges of bullying or retaliation shall be subject to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.</p> <p>This policy shall be made available on the District's publicly accessible website. It shall be posted in each District classroom and in a prominent location within each school building where such notices are usually posted. It shall be reviewed with students at least once every school year.</p> <p>The District shall review this policy every three (3) years and shall provide the Office of Safe School with a copy of its policy annually.</p> <p>West Chester Area School District, West Chester, Pa</p>
---	--



File JGDC

Bullying