

ALTOONA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT



ISO 9001
Certificate Number: 36855

TITLE: BULLYING
SECTION: 5000 Students
FIRST READING: 05/12/08
FINAL ADOPTION: 05/12/08
PLACEMENT: 5044R1 in Manual
REMOVE: 5044

Title:	5044R1 - Bullying
Authority:	AASD Student Code of Conduct Pennsylvania Crimes Code
Policy:	

I. Policy Statement

A. "It is the policy of the Board of School Directors to fully support the regulations and laws prohibiting discrimination, harassment, hazing, bullying, and intimidation because of race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, color, national origin ancestry, familial status, disability, medical condition, age, as well as sexual harassment, and to maintain a learning environment which is free of any area listed in this purpose statement."

II. Purpose

- A.** Creating and maintaining a safe and welcoming learning climate for all students is a high priority in all District schools. Therefore, it shall be the policy of the district in which bullying in any form is not tolerated.
- B.** A safe school climate free from bullying is necessary for pupils to learn and achieve high academic standards.
- C.** Bullying behavior disrupts the educational process, therefore it will not be tolerated on school property, in school vehicles, at school-sponsored events, or during travel to and from school.

III. Definition

- A.** Bullying is defined as a form of aggression in which:
 1. The behavior is intended to harm or cause distress.
 2. The behavior is a form of harassment.

3. The behavior is insulting or demeaning to another student or group of students.
 4. The behavior occurs repeatedly over time.
 5. The behavior causes disruption of the ordinary operation of the school.
 6. There is an imbalance of power or strength among parties.
- B.** Bullying may be physical, verbal, written, electronically transmitted (cyberbullying/cyber harassment) 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 school, name-calling, and derogatory statements, including any discriminatory statements prohibiting by and consistent with the District's Student Unlawful Harassment Policy (#5035R3).
- C.** Cyberbullying is any cyber-communication or publication posted or sent by a minor online, by instant messenger, e-mail, web site, blog, online profile, interactive game, handheld device, cell phone, or other interactive device that is intended to frighten, embarrass, harass, or otherwise target another minor. If both individuals are not minors, the action is considered cyberharassment, not cyberbullying. To be considered cyberbullying, the following must occur; the communication needs to be repeated; a threat of bodily harm issued; or a public posting made designed to hurt, embarrass or otherwise target a child.

IV. Delegation of Responsibility

- A.** Any person aware of bullying shall report the incident to school staff. School staff will provide immediate interventions consistent with this school policy.

V. Implementation

- A.** The bullying prevention climate shall consist of school-wide action, classroom-level activities, individual interventions and community involvements that are consistent with the training provided by the District.
- B.** School-wide action includes, but is not limited to, training for school staff and students and adoption of anti-bullying rules.

For **Elementary**, these rules will include:

1. I will not bully others.
2. I will help students who are victims of bullying.
3. I will include all students so that no one is left out.
4. I will tell an adult at school and/or an adult at home when somebody is being bullied.
5. All bullying is prohibited.

For **Secondary**, all bullying is prohibited.

- C. Classroom level activity includes, but is not limited to, consistent interventions, use of rules, reinforcement of pro-social behavior and incorporation of anti-bullying themes.
- D. Individual interventions include, but are not limited to, follow-up with victims, bullies, and parents that may include consequences, provisions for making restitution, and counseling referrals, as appropriate.
- E. Community involvement encourages partnerships with families, community organizations and agencies to prevent bullying.

VI. Guidelines

- A. When a student believes that he/she is a victim or bullying, the student shall report a complaint of bullying, orally or in writing, to the building principal, counselor, teacher or another school employee.
- B. All school employees are required to report alleged violations of this policy to the building principal or the principal's designee.** An employee shall be subject to disciplinary procedures consistent with the current collective bargaining agreement, as applicable, and District policy for failure to report.
- C. The principal or principal's designee will investigate the incident and maintain a confidential record in the discipline file of both the victim(s) and bully(ies).
- D. The building principal or designee will contact the parent/guardian of both the bully and victim.
- E. Appropriate consequences and remedial actions will be administered as per District Policy.
- F. Victims and their parents shall be made aware of appropriate counseling services available to them if needed. The parent handbook, the District website, parent meetings/or contacts, the Student Code of Conduct and other School District Policies will provide information pertinent to the District's Anti-Bullying Policy.
- G. The District prohibits reprisal or retaliation against any person who reports a relevant act of bullying. The principal, in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct and/or other District policy, will determine the consequences and remedial actions.
- H. The principal, in accordance with the Student Code of Conduct and/or other District policy, will determine the consequences and remedial actions for a pupil found to have falsely accused another as a means of harassment.
- I. Any violation of the PA Crimes Code will be reported to District Security.

Cross Reference/ Board Policies:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Student Unlawful Harassment Policy (#5035R3) ▪ Current Collective Bargaining Agreements ▪ AASD Student Code of Conduct ▪ Pennsylvania Crimes Code ▪ Internet Usage Policy
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Revision History:

<u>Date:</u>	<u>Rev.:</u>	<u>Description of Revision:</u>
06/04/07	5044	New Policy
05/12/08	5044R1	Anti-Bullying Task Force Revised Draft