

Tyrone Area School District

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: BULLYING

ADOPTED: MARCH 10, 2014

249. BULLYING	
1. Purpose	The Tyrone Area School District recognizes that bullying of students has a negative effect on the educational environment of its schools. Students who are bullied, intimidated or fearful of other students may not be able to take full advantage of the educational opportunities offered by the school district. Bullying can also escalate into more serious violence. Therefore, the school district strives to offer all students an educational environment free from bullying.
2. Definition	<p>Bullying shall mean REPEATED unwelcome verbal, written or physical conduct directed at a student by another student which creates an imbalance of power due to size, popularity, or intellect that has the intent and effect of, but not limited to, the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Physically, mentally, or emotionally harming a student. 2. Damaging, extorting or taking a student's personal property. 3. Placing a student in reasonable fear of physical harm. 4. Placing a student in reasonable fear of damage to or loss of personal property. 5. Creating an intimidating or hostile environment that substantially interferes with a student's educational opportunities or causes embarrassment. 6. Substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school. 7. Purposely excluding someone, spreading rumors, and/or ostracizing. <p>The term bullying shall not be interpreted to infringe upon a student's right to engage in legally protected speech or conduct. A bystander is one who encourages, promotes or passively participates in bullying.</p>
3. Authority	The school district will not tolerate any acts of substantial bullying occurring on school district property, at any school-sponsored activities which are sponsored, supervised or sanctioned by the school or disrupts the orderly operation of the school.
4. Delegation of Responsibility	Development of Educational Programs – The superintendent or his/her designee shall develop administrative procedures and programs to increase the awareness of

<p>SC 1303.1-A</p> <p>5. Guidelines</p>	<p>the problems of bullying, and train teachers to effectively intervene if bullying is witnessed in their presence or brought to their attention.</p> <p><u>Intervention</u> – Teachers who observe acts of bullying shall take reasonable steps to intervene to stop such conduct, unless intervention would threaten a teacher’s personal safety. The nature of the intervention will vary depending upon the age of the student (both victim and aggressor), the severity of the bullying and the student’s involvement in prior acts of bullying. The purpose of the intervention is to take prompt remedial steps to ensure observed acts of bullying cease and to teach students that bullying is not acceptable behavior.</p> <p>District administration shall annually provide the following information with the Safe School Report:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Board’s Bullying Policy;2. Report of bullying incident; and3. Information on the development and implementation of any bullying prevention, intervention or education programs. <p><u>Student, Parent and Employee Reporting</u></p> <p>The school district encourages all students and parents/guardians who become aware of any act of bullying to immediately report that conduct. Students may report acts of bullying to teachers, building principal or other school employees supervising school-sponsored activities. Parents/guardians may contact the building principal to report acts of bullying.</p> <p>If teachers and/or other staff cannot reasonably remediate acts of bullying through their own intervention, they should report the bullying to the building principal. Other school employees who observe acts of bullying shall report that conduct to the building principal.</p> <p><u>Investigation Procedures</u></p> <p>Each building principal or designee is authorized to investigate reports of bullying brought to their attention by students, parents/guardians or school employees. Any investigation of a report may include meetings with students, parents/guardians or employees; a review of student records and other reasonable efforts to better understand the facts surrounding a reported incident.</p> <p><u>Consequences/Discipline</u></p> <p>Consequences for students who are found to have bullied others may include counseling, a parent/guardian conference, detention, suspension, expulsion, a loss of school privileges, and/or exclusion from school-sponsored activities. All incidents of bullying will be documented.</p>
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<p>SC 1303.1-A Title 22 Sec. 12.3 Pol. 218</p>	<p>Bystanders may be subjected to disciplinary action.</p> <p>Depending upon the severity of a particular situation, the building principal may also take appropriate steps to ensure student safety. Such steps may include the implementation of a safety plan; separating and supervising the students involved; providing employee support for students as needed; reporting incidents to law enforcement, if appropriate; and developing a supervision plan with parents/guardians.</p> <p><u>Reprisal</u></p> <p>Any student who retaliates against another student for reporting bullying or for assisting or testifying in the investigation or hearing may be subject to disciplinary action.</p> <p><u>Interplay With Other School District Policies</u></p> <p>Nothing in this policy shall prevent school employees from enforcing, imposing discipline or fulfilling their professional responsibilities under other school district policies or student disciplinary rules.</p> <p><u>Dissemination</u></p> <p>The Code of Student Conduct, which shall contain this policy, shall be disseminated annually to students.</p> <p>This policy shall be posted in a prominent location within each school building and on the district website.</p> <p><u>Confidentiality</u></p> <p>The Tyrone Area School District recognizes that both the complaining student and the alleged bully have strong interest in maintaining the confidentiality of the allegations and related information. The privacy of the complaining student, the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses will be respected as much as possible, consistent with legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to comply with Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and any discovery or disclosure obligations. As limited by FERPA protections, the principal or designee may inform the complaining student/parents/guardians of the outcome of the investigation.</p>
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