

StudentsElementary and SecondaryBullying1. Purpose

The Boyertown Area School District recognizes that bullying and intimidation have a negative effect on school climate. 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 the right to an education and to be safe in and around school.

2. Definition

Bullying shall mean an intentional electronic, written, verbal, or physical act, or a series of acts:

- (a) directed at another student or students;
- (b) that occurs in a school setting;
- (c) that is severe, persistent, or pervasive; and
- (d) that has the effect of doing any of the following:
 - (i) substantially interfering with a student's education;
 - (ii) creating a threatening environment; or
 - (iii) substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school setting (which 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).

Conduct occurring outside a school setting that meets the requirements of (a), (c), and (d) shall also be subject to this policy.

Behavior is clearly bullying when:

- a. There is an intent to harm - the perpetrator appears to find pleasure in taunting and continues even when the target's distress is obvious.
- b. There is intensity and duration - the taunting continues over a long period of time, and is not welcomed by the target.

3. Authority

The Board of School Directors and staff shall not tolerate any bullying on District grounds or at any school activity on or off campus by any district student.

4. Delegation of Responsibility

Staff Intervention

The District expects staff members who observe or become aware of an act of bullying to take immediate, appropriate steps to intervene unless intervention would be a threat to the staff member's safety. If the staff member believes that his or her intervention has not resolved the matter, or if the objectionable action persists, he or she shall report the bullying to the school principal or assistant principal for further investigation.

Students and Parents Shall Report Bullying

The District expects students and parents who become aware of an act of bullying to report it to the school principal or assistant principal for further investigation. Any student who retaliates against another for reporting bullying are subject to the consequences listed below under Consequences/Intervention.

5. Investigation Procedures

Upon learning about a bullying incident, the principal or designee shall contact the parents of both the aggressor and the subject of the aggressions, interview both students, and thoroughly investigate. This investigation may include interviews with students, parents and school staff; review of school records, and identification of parent and family issues.

6. Consequences/Intervention

Consequences for students who bully others shall depend on the results of the investigation and may include counseling; a parent conference; detention; suspension and/or expulsion. Depending on the severity of the incident, the principal may also take appropriate steps to ensure student safety. These may include 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 the parents.

7. Education

Each school will offer information to students in groups and individually (as necessary) on bullying and steps to ensure these negative activities do not occur in BASD schools and/or school activities. This policy shall also be reviewed with students within ninety(90) days after adoption and thereafter at least once each school year.

8. Notice

This policy shall be incorporated in the Code of Student Conduct and shall be made available on the District's website and in every classroom. Each school shall also post this policy at a prominent location within the building where such notices are usually posted.