

STO-ROX SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: PROHIBITION AGAINST BULLYING

ADOPTED:

REVISED: November 20, 2008

248.1. PROHIBITION AGAINST BULLYING	
1. Purpose	<p>The Sto-Rox School District is committed to providing all students and employees with the right to a safe and civil educational environment, free from harassment and/or bullying. 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.</p>
2. Definition SC 1303.1-A	<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, that is severe, persistent or pervasive and has the intent or effect of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Substantially interfering with a student's education; 2. Creating a threatening environment; or 3. Substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school. <p>Bullying, as defined in this Policy, includes cyber-bullying. School setting means in the school, on school grounds, time traveling to and from school, or any activity sponsored, supervised or sanctioned by the school. Bullying or cyber-bullying shall not be interpreted to infringe upon a student's right to engage in legally protected speech or conduct.</p> <p>Bullying may include acts that occur outside of school if those acts are intentional, electronic, verbal or physical, are directed at another student or students, are severe, persistent or pervasive, and have the effect of (i)substantially interfering with a students education; (ii) creating a threatening environment; or (iii) substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.</p>
3. Authority SC 1303.1-A	<p>The Board prohibits all forms of bullying by students. The Board encourages students who have been bullied to promptly report such incidents to the principal or designee. The Board directs that complaints shall be investigated promptly, and corrective action shall be taken when allegations are verified. Confidentiality of all parties shall be maintained, consistent with the school's legal and investigative obligations. No reprisals or retaliation shall occur as a result of good faith reports of bullying.</p>
4. Delegation of Responsibility	<p>The Superintendent shall promulgate rules and regulations for bullying in accordance with the student discipline code.</p>

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<p>5. Guidelines</p> <p>SC 1303.1-A 22 Pa.Code Sec. 12.3</p>	<p>The Superintendent, in cooperation with principals and other appropriate administrators, shall review this policy every three (3) years and recommend necessary revisions to the Board.</p> <p>The administration shall annually provide the following information with the Safe Schools Report:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The Board's Bullying Policy2. Report of bullying incidents3. Information on the development and implementation of any bullying prevention, intervention or education programs. <p>The Student discipline code shall contain this policy and be disseminated annually. This Policy shall be accessible in every classroom.</p> <p>This Policy shall be posted in a prominent location within each school building and on the website.</p> <p><u>Complaint/Investigation Procedures</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A student shall report a complaint of bullying or cyber-bullying, orally or in writing, to a teacher, principal or counselor.2. The teacher, principal or counselor will investigate the alleged conduct.3. The principal may ask for assistance from the administration in the investigation process.4. After the investigation, the principal shall prepare a report or receive a written report of the complaint and the results of the investigation, if the investigation report concludes that an incident of bullying occurred, then the principal shall take corrective action consistent with the Student discipline code to ensure the conduct ceases. <p><u>Education</u></p> <p>Schools may develop and implement bullying prevention and intervention programs. Such programs shall provide staff and students with appropriate training for effectively responding to, intervening in and reporting incidents of bullying.</p> <p><u>Consequences/Interventions</u></p> <p>A student who violates this policy will be subject to discipline consistent with the Student discipline code. Such discipline may include counseling, parent/guardian conference, detention, suspension, transfer or expulsion. Incidents of bullying may be referred to law enforcement and reported to Children, Youth and Families as an incident of child abuse.</p> <p>References: School Code – 24 P.S. Section 1302-A, 1303.1-A State Board of Education Regulations – 22 Pa.Code Sec. 12.3</p>
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Bullying Information

- Boys who were frequent bullies in middle school are three times as likely as their non-bullying peers to have a criminal conviction by age 24.
- One in fifteen students said they avoided certain places at school because they feared being attacked. (Harvard School of Public Health)
- Only 25% of students report that teachers intervene in bullying situations, while 71% of teachers believe they always intervene.
- Up to 7% of 8th graders stay home at least once a month because of bullies
- Incidents of bullying according to a US Justice Department Summary:
 - Both males and females were more likely to be bullied in 2001 than in 1999
 - In 2001, males were more likely than females to be bullied (9 and 7 percent, respectively)
 - In 1999 no such difference could be detected (5 percent each)
 - In 2001, there were few differences detected among racial/ethnic groups or location in the percentage of students who reported being bullied
- Best estimates are that approximately 15% of students either bully or are bullied regularly. Direct physical bullying is reported as decreasing with age (peaking in the middle school). Verbal abuse seems not to abate. While more boys than girls are bullies, the problem is far from limited to males. Girls tend to use less direct strategies (e.g., spreading malicious rumors and shunning).
- Bullying is the assertion of power through aggression. Its forms change with age: school playground bullying, sexual harassment, gang attacks, date violence, assault, marital violence, child abuse, workplace harassment and elder abuse. (Pepler and Craig, 1997)
- Children in lower grades are more likely to be victims of same-age bullies. Younger students experience more direct bullying, whereas older students experience more indirect bullying. (Olweus, 1993)
- Both boys and girls who are victimized report symptoms of depression such as sadness and loss of interest in activities. (Slee, 1995) (Craig, 1997)
- Bullying is reduced in a school if the principal is committed to reducing bullying. (Charach et al., 1995)
- Forty percent of those identified as bullies had three or more arrests by age thirty.
- Bullies are at even greater risk of suicide than their targets.

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Bullying*

A student is being bullied or victimized when he or she is exposed, repeatedly and over time, to negative actions on the part of one or more other students (Olweus 1986 and 1991). It is a negative action when someone intentionally inflicts injury or discomfort upon another.

Direct bullying - A negative action when somebody hits, pushes, kicks, pinches, or restrains another by physical contact. Direct bullying can also be carried out by words (verbally), by threatening, taunting, teasing, and calling names.

Indirect bullying - Making faces or dirty gestures, intentionally excluding someone from a group, spreading rumors, or refusing to comply with another person's wishes.

Relational aggression - Describes behavior which can undermine or destroy relationships and is often used when identifying "female" bullying.

However, it should be noted that both genders can engage in direct or indirect bullying, and it can be either physical and/or psychological in nature.

Bullying can be carried out by a single individual or by a group. The target/victim of bullying can be a single individual or a group of students.

The behavior can be either overt or covert in nature utilizing various methods of communication. For example, the term cyber bullying is being used to describe bullying behavior that occurs on the Internet.

The term "bullying" should not be used when there is a mutual confrontation between two students or groups of students.

Behavior is clearly bullying when:

- (1) **There is intent to harm** – the perpetrator appears to find pleasure in taunting and continues even when the target's distress is obvious. Mutual "teasing" should not be confused with bullying behavior.
- (2) **There is intensity and duration** – the taunting continues over a period of time and is not welcomed by the target.

***From the 2005-2006 Pennsylvania Annual Safe Schools Report, Definitions Section**