

HALIFAX AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: BULLYING/CYBERBULLYING

ADOPTED: February 26, 2009

REVISED:

249. BULLYING/CYBERBULLYING	
1. Purpose	The Board is committed to providing a safe, positive learning environment for district students. 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 district students.
2. Definitions 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 and/or outside a school setting, that is severe, persistent or pervasive and has the effect of doing any of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Substantial interference with a student’s education or the orderly operation of the school. 2. Creating a threatening, intimidating, or hostile environment. 3. Physically, emotionally, or mentally harming a student. 4. Damaging, extorting or taking a student’s personal or academic property. 5. Placing a student in reasonable fear of damage to, or loss of, personal property. <p>Direct bullying includes, but is not limited to, 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.</p>

	<p>Cyberbullying includes, but is not limited to, the following misuses of technology: harassing, teasing, intimidating, threatening, or terrorizing another student, teacher or employee of the district by sending or posting inappropriate or derogatory e-mail messages, instant messages, digital pictures or images, web site postings (including blogs), or breaking into an e-mail or similar account to send vicious or embarrassing material. All forms of cyberbullying are unacceptable and, to the extent that such actions are disruptive of the educational process of the district, offenders shall be subject to appropriate discipline.</p> <p>Bullying, as defined in this policy, includes cyberbullying.</p>
<p>SC 1303.1-A</p>	<p>School setting 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.</p>
<p>3. Authority SC 1303.1-A</p>	<p>The Board prohibits all forms of bullying by district students.</p> <p>The Board encourages students who have been bullied to promptly report such incidents to the building principal or designee.</p> <p>The Board directs that complaints of bullying shall be investigated promptly, and corrective action shall be taken when allegations are verified. Confidentiality of all parties shall be maintained, consistent with the district’s legal and investigative obligations. No reprisals or retaliation shall occur as a result of good faith reports of bullying.</p>
<p>4. Delegation of Responsibility</p>	<p>Each student shall be responsible to respect the rights of others and to ensure an atmosphere free from bullying.</p> <p>The Superintendent or designee shall develop administrative regulations to implement this policy.</p>
<p>SC 1303.1-A</p>	<p>The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that this policy and administrative regulations are reviewed annually with students.</p>
<p>SC 1303.1-A</p>	<p>The Superintendent or designee, in cooperation with other appropriate administrators, shall review this policy every three (3) years and recommend necessary revisions to the Board.</p>

<p>SC 1303.1-A</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 incidents. 3. Information on the development and implementation of any bullying prevention, intervention or education programs.
<p>5. Guidelines SC 1303.1-A Title 22 Sec. 12.3 Pol. 218</p>	<p>The Code of Student Conduct, which shall contain this policy, shall be disseminated annually to students.</p> <p>This policy shall be accessible in every classroom. The policy shall be posted in a prominent location within each school building and on the district web site.</p> <p><u>Education</u></p>
<p>SC 1302-A, 1303.1-A Pol. 236</p>	<p>The district may develop and implement bullying prevention and intervention programs. Such programs shall provide district staff and students with appropriate training for effectively responding to, intervening in and reporting incidents of bullying.</p> <p><u>Consequences For Violations</u></p>
<p>SC 1303.1-A Pol. 218, 233</p>	<p>A student who violates this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action consistent with the Code of Student Conduct, which may include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Counseling within the school. 2. Parental conference. 3. Loss of school privileges. 4. Transfer to another school building, classroom or school bus. 5. Exclusion from school-sponsored activities. 6. Detention. 7. Suspension.

8. Expulsion.
9. Counseling/Therapy outside of school.
10. Referral to law enforcement officials.

References:

School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 1302-A, 1303.1-A

State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec. 12.3

Board Policy – 000, 218, 233, 236, 248