Book	Policy Manual
Section	200 Pupils
Title	Bullying/Cyberbullying
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Purpose

The Joint Operating Committee is committed to providing a safe, positive learning environment for its students. The Joint Operating Committee 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 Joint Operating Committee prohibits bullying by students.

Definitions

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:[1]

1. Substantially interfering with a student's education.
2. Creating a threatening environment.
3. Substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the center.

Bullying, as defined in this policy, includes cyberbullying.

School setting means in the center's participating school districts, on participating school district grounds, in center's vehicles, at a designated bus stop or at any activity sponsored, supervised or sanctioned by the center.[1]

Authority

The Joint Operating Committee prohibits all forms of bullying by students.[1]

The Joint Operating Committee encourages students who believe they or others have been bullied to promptly report such incidents to the Executive Director or participating school district building administrator or designee.

Students are encouraged to use the center' report form, available from the Administrative Director or designee, or to put the complaint in writing; however, oral complaints shall be accepted and documented. The person accepting the complaint shall handle the report objectively, neutrally and professionally, setting aside personal biases that might favor or disfavor the student filing the complaint or those accused of a violation of this policy.

The Joint Operating Committee directs that verbal and written complaints of bullying shall be investigated promptly, and appropriate corrective or preventative action shall be taken when allegations are substantiated. The Joint Operating Committee directs that any complaint of bullying brought pursuant to this policy shall also be reviewed for conduct which may not be proven to be bullying under this policy but merits review and possible action under other Joint Operating Committee policies.

Title IX Sexual Harassment and Other Discrimination

Every report of alleged bullying that can be interpreted at the outset to fall within the provisions of policies addressing potential violations of laws against discrimination and discriminatory harassment shall be handled as a joint, concurrent investigation into all allegations and coordinated with the full participation of the Title IX Coordinator. If, in the course of a bullying investigation, potential issues of discrimination or discriminatory harassment are identified, the Title IX Coordinator shall be promptly notified, and the investigation shall be

conducted jointly and concurrently to address the issues of alleged discrimination as well as the incidents of alleged bullying.[2][3]

Confidentiality

Confidentiality of all parties, witnesses, the allegations, the filing of a complaint and the investigation shall be handled in accordance with applicable law, regulations, this policy and the center legal and investigative obligations.

Retaliation

Reprisal or retaliation relating to reports of bullying or participation in an investigation of allegations of bullying is prohibited and shall be subject to disciplinary action.

Delegation of Responsibility

Each student shall be responsible to respect the rights of others and to ensure an atmosphere free from bullying.

The Executive Director or designee shall develop administrative regulations to implement this policy.

The Executive Director or designee shall ensure that this policy and administrative regulations are availably annually to students.[1]

The Executive Director or designee, in cooperation with other appropriate participating district administrators, shall review this policy every three (3) years and recommend necessary revisions to the Joint Operating Committee.[1]

The administration shall annually provide the following information with the Safe School Report:[1]

1. Joint Operating Committee's Bullying Policy.
2. Report of bullying incidents.
3. Information on the development and implementation of any bullying prevention, intervention or education programs.

Guidelines

The Code of Student Conduct, which shall contain this policy, shall be disseminated annually to students.[1][4][5]

This policy shall be accessible in every classroom. The policy shall be posted in a prominent location within each center program and on the center website.[1]

Education

The center may develop, implement and evaluate bullying prevention and intervention programs and activities. Such programs and activities shall provide staff and students with appropriate training for effectively responding to, intervening in and reporting incidents of bullying.[1][6][7][8]

Consequences for Violations

A student who violates this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action consistent with the Code of Student Conduct, which may include:[1][5][9]

1. Counseling within their participating school district.
2. Parental conference.
3. Loss of center privileges.
4. Exclusion from center-sponsored activities.
5. Detention.
6. Suspension.
7. Expulsion.

8. Counseling/Therapy outside their participating school district.

9. Referral to law enforcement officials.

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Legal
1. 24 P.S. 1303.1-A
2. Pol. 103
3. Pol. 103.1
4. 22 PA Code 12.3
5. Pol. 218
6. 24 P.S. 1302-A
7. Pol. 236
8. 20 U.S.C. 7118
9. Pol. 233

Pol. 113.1

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