

WALLINGFORD- SWARTHMORE SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: BULLYING

ADOPTED: January 26, 2009

REVISED: April 22, 2013

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| <p>1. Purpose</p> <p>2. Definitions SC 1303.1-A</p> <p>3. Guidelines</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">249. BULLYING</p> <p>The Wallingford-Swarthmore School District Board of Education is committed to providing a safe, positive learning environment for district students. 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 of Education prohibits bullying by district students in the school setting which includes the school, on school grounds, in school vehicles, at a designated bus stop or at any activity sponsored, supervised, or sanctioned by the school. Bullying, as defined in this policy, includes cyberbullying.</p> <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 effect of doing any of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Substantial interference with a student’s education. 2. Creation of a threatening environment. 3. Substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school. <p><u>Reporting Procedures</u></p> <p>All students who believe they have been the victim of bullying and all students who witness bullying should promptly report the bullying incident to a teacher, counselor, or building administrator.</p> <p>All parents/guardians who become aware of bullying should promptly report the bullying incident to the building principal.</p> <p>Any teacher, counselor, staff member, or administrator who witnesses bullying shall immediately intervene and take appropriate action to stop the bullying. That incident will then be reported to the building principal. Any staff member to whom an alleged incident of bullying is reported by a student, parent, or guardian should report the alleged incident to the building principal for investigation and appropriate action.</p> |
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Once informed of a possible bullying incident, the principal or designee should document such incident and immediately investigate the matter. The bullying incident should be discussed with the alleged victim in a place where the alleged victim feels secure. The initial discussion with the alleged victim should not take place in the presence of the alleged offending student(s). The alleged offending student(s) should also be interviewed in a similar manner. All interviews should be documented and kept on record in the principal's office. After the investigation has been completed, the building principal or designee should take appropriate action consistent with this policy.

Disciplinary Consequences

If an investigation substantiates that bullying has occurred, a written record of the incident should be placed in the discipline record of the offending student(s). The parents/guardians of each offending student should be informed, and the parents/guardians will be asked to attend one or more conferences with the principal, or designee, to review the bullying behavior and strategies for correcting it. Disciplinary action will be in accordance with the building's discipline policy. In addition to imposing disciplinary action, the building principal, or designee will discuss the bullying behavior with the offending student.

The building principal, or designee, will inform the victim's parents/guardians of any and all bullying incidents involving their child. Teachers of the student who was bullied will be informed of the situation.

Appeal Procedure

A student, parent, or guardian who is dissatisfied with the disposition of a bullying incident may appeal the decision, as set forth in Policy 219, Complaint Process.

Preventative Measures

This policy will be posted on the district website, posted at a prominent location within each school building, and available in every classroom. The building principal will ensure that the policy and procedures for reporting bullying incidents are reviewed with all students and staff members at least once each school year. Each staff member shall be responsible for maintaining an educational environment free of bullying. All students will be informed that bullying will not be tolerated in any form and will be encouraged to report any bullying.

Policy Review

The Policy will be reviewed and approved every three years.

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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 – 219, 248