

**BELLE VERNON
AREA
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: BULLYING/
CYBERBULLYING

ADOPTED: September 22, 2014

REVISED:

| 249. BULLYING/CYBERBULLYING | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| <p>1. Purpose Pol. 248</p> | <p>The Belle Vernon Area 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 district students.</p> |
| <p>2. Definitions SC 1303.1-A</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>Bullying, as defined in this policy, includes cyberbullying.</p> <p>Bullying may include acts that occur outside of a school setting 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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Substantially interfering with a student’s education. 2. Creating a threatening environment. 3. Substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school. |
| <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> |

249. BULLYING/CYBERBULLYING - Pg. 2

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>3. Authority SC 1303.1-A</p> <p>Pol. 220</p> | <p>The Board prohibits all forms of bullying by district students.</p> <p>The prohibition against bullying shall not be interpreted to infringe upon a student's right to engage in legally protected speech or conduct.</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>SC 1303.1-A</p> <p>SC 1303.1-A</p> <p>SC 1303.1-A</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 promulgate rules and administrative regulations to implement this policy, in accordance with the Discipline Code.</p> <p>The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that this policy and administrative regulations are reviewed annually with students.</p> <p>The Superintendent or designee, in cooperation with building principals and 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 Discipline Code, which shall contain this policy, shall be disseminated annually to students.</p> |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>SC 1302-A, 1303.1-A Pol. 236</p> <p>SC 1303.1-A Pol. 218, 233</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 website.</p> <p><u>Complaint/Investigation Procedure</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A student shall report a complaint of bullying or cyberbullying, orally or in writing, to a teacher, building principal or counselor.2. The teacher, building principal or counselor shall investigate the alleged conduct.3. The building principal may request assistance from the administration in the investigation process and preparation of the report.4. After the investigation, the building principal shall prepare 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 building principal shall take corrective action consistent with the Discipline Code to ensure the conduct ceases. <p><u>Education</u></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/Interventions</u></p> <p>A student who violates this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action consistent with the Discipline Code, which may include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Counseling.2. Parental conference.3. Detention.4. Suspension.5. Transfer to another school building, classroom or school bus.6. Expulsion. |
|--|--|

249. BULLYING/CYBERBULLYING - Pg. 4

Incidents of bullying may be referred to law enforcement and reported to Children, Youth and Families.

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, 220, 233, 236, 248