

# BELLE VERNON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: PROHIBITION AGAINST  
BULLYING

ADOPTED: September 19, 2005

REVISED: October 20, 2008

<p>1. Purpose</p> <p>2. Definition SC 1303.1-A</p> <p>3. Authority SC 1303.1-A</p> <p>4. Delegation of Responsibility</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>218.2. PROHIBITION AGAINST BULLYING</b></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 students.</p> <p><b>Bullying</b> 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"> <li>1. Substantially interfering with a student’s education;</li> <li>2. Creating a threatening environment; or</li> <li>3. Substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.</li> </ol> <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> <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> <p>The Superintendent shall promulgate rules and regulations for bullying in accordance with the student discipline code.</p> <p>The Superintendent, in cooperation with principals and other appropriate administrators, shall review this policy every three (3) years and recommend</p>
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<p>5. Guidelines</p> <p>SC 1303.1-A 22 Pa.Code Sec. 12.3</p>	<p>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"><li>1. The Board’s Bullying Policy</li><li>2. Report of bullying incidents</li><li>3. Information on the development and implementation of any bullying prevention, intervention or education programs.</li></ol> <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"><li>1. A student shall report a complaint of bullying or cyber-bullying, orally or in writing, to a teacher, principal or counselor.</li><li>2. The teacher, principal or counselor will investigate the alleged conduct.</li><li>3. The principal may ask for assistance from the administration in the investigation process.</li><li>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.</li></ol> <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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