

5150.6 **BULLYING**

The Union City Area School Board strives to provide a safe, positive learning climate for students in the schools. The School District recognizes that bullying and intimidation have a negative effect on this environment. Students who feel unsafe, intimidated, or abused cannot fully attend to the educational process. Bullying can lead to more serious harassment and violence; therefore, it shall be the policy of the School District to maintain an educational environment in which bullying in any form is not tolerated.

Definitions

1. Bullying shall mean an intentional electronic, written, verbal or physical act, or a series of acts:
 - (a) directed at another student or students;
 - (b) which occurs in a school setting;
 - (c) that is severe, persistent or pervasive; and
 - (d) that has the effect of doing any of the following:
 - (i) substantially interfering with a student's education;
 - (ii) creating a threatening environment; or
 - (iii) substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.
 - (e) Bullying may include, but is not limited to the following activities:
 - (i) Name calling.
 - (ii) Teasing.
 - (iii) Threatening looks.
 - (iv) Gestures.
 - (v) Note writing.
 - (vi) Electronic communication.

- (vii) Extortion.
- (viii) Physical intimidation.
- (ix) Threats.
- (x) Assault.

2. School setting shall mean 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.

The School District expects staff members and support personnel who observe an act of bullying to take immediate, appropriate steps to intervene. If a student informs a staff member that s/he has witnessed or is the target of bullying behavior, the staff member must take immediate, appropriate steps to intervene. If an employee believes that his/her intervention has not resolved the matter, or if the bullying persists, s/he shall report the bully to the school principal or other designated authority for further investigation.

Reporting and Investigating

1. The building principal at each school shall receive complaints regarding alleged bullying.
2. All School District employees, students, parents/guardians, and volunteers are required to report alleged bullying to the appropriate building principal.
3. Upon receiving a complaint of alleged bullying, the building principal shall conduct a prompt and thorough investigation of the complaint. The investigation may include interviews with students, parents, and school staff, along with associated documentation.
4. After investigating a complaint of alleged bullying, the building principal may impose some of the disciplinary consequences set forth below or report to the Superintendent, who may impose all of the disciplinary consequences set forth below.

Access to Policy

1. The School District shall make this Policy available on its publicly accessible Internet website.
2. The School District shall place this Policy in every classroom of the School District.
3. The School District shall post this Policy at the location within each school building where other notices are posted.

4. The School District shall place this Policy in all student handbooks.

Review of Policy

1. This Policy and the procedures for reporting bullying will be reviewed annually at the beginning of each school year with all students.
2. This Policy shall be reviewed every three (3) years.
3. This Policy shall be provided annually to the Pennsylvania Department of Education's Office for Safe Schools.

The School District will provide students with skills to deal with bullying situations. Students will be made aware of available resources to assist in resolution of the problem.

The School District encourages parents to contact one another directly in an attempt to resolve those situations that occur outside the school setting as that term is defined above.

Disciplinary Consequences

Disciplinary consequences for students who engage in bullying may include, but are not limited to:

1. Student conference.
2. Parent conference.
3. Referral for counseling.
4. Detention.
5. Suspension.
6. Review of Harassment Policy and/or subsequent legal action.
7. Referral to the Board for expulsion.

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Reviewed: 10/9/09; 8/2/12; 4/1/15

Revised: 6/14/18