

BERKS COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: BULLYING/CYBERBULLYING

ADOPTED: February 19, 2009

REVISED:

249. BULLYING/CYBERBULLYING	
<p>1. Purpose</p>	<p>The Board is committed to providing a safe, positive learning environment for students attending Berks County Intermediate Unit programs. 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 all forms of bullying by Intermediate Unit students.</p>
<p>2. Authority SC 1303.1-A</p>	<p>The Board encourages students who have been bullied to promptly report such incidents to the program supervisor or building principal.</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 Intermediate Unit’s legal and investigative obligations. No reprisals or retaliation shall be tolerated as a result of good faith reports of bullying.</p>
<p>3. Definitions SC 1303.1-A</p>	<p>Bullying means an intentional, 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:</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>Cyberbullying shall mean any form of psychological bullying that occurs by sending or posting inappropriate or derogatory messages and/or pictures using technology-related devices. Cyberbullying used to harass, tease, intimidate, threaten, or terrorize another student, teacher, or employee of the Intermediate Unit will not be tolerated. Offenders will be disciplined accordingly.</p>

<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>
<p>4. Delegation of Responsibility</p>	<p>Each student shall be responsible to respect the rights of others and to ensure an atmosphere free from bullying.</p> <p>All staff members shall be responsible to maintain an educational environment free of bullying and cyberbullying.</p> <p>The Executive Director or designee shall develop administrative regulations to implement this policy.</p>
<p>SC 1303.1-A</p>	<p>The Executive Director or designee shall ensure that this policy and administrative regulations are reviewed annually with students.</p>
<p>SC 1303.1-A</p>	<p>The Executive Director or designee, in cooperation with 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>The Intermediate Unit 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 Code of Student Conduct, which shall contain this policy, shall be disseminated annually to students.</p> <p>This policy shall be accessible in every Intermediate Unit classroom. The policy shall be posted in a prominent location within each Intermediate Unit building and on the web site, if available.</p> <p><u>Education</u></p>
<p>SC 1302-A, 1303.1-A Pol. 236</p>	<p>The Intermediate Unit may develop and implement bullying prevention and intervention programs. Such programs shall provide Intermediate Unit staff and students with appropriate training for effectively responding to, intervening in, and reporting incidents of bullying.</p>

School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 1302-A, 1303.1-A

State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec. 12.3

Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act – 20 U.S.C. Sec. 1232g

Board Policy – 000, 218, 233, 236

No. 249 AR

BERKS COUNTY
INTERMEDIATE UNIT

ADMINISTRATIVE
REGULATION

DATE: 2/19/09

BULLYING/CYBERBULLYING

It is the responsibility of all staff members and students to ensure that the Intermediate Unit educational environment is free of bullying/cyberbullying and to report these incidents to the program supervisor/building principal. Bullying incidents shall be documented in a discipline report and recorded in the student management software. This data is used in submitting the annual Safe School Report.

The program supervisor/building principal is responsible for training and providing copies of the bullying policy and administrative regulation as follows:

1. Post copies at a prominent location within each school building where such notices are usually posted;
2. Make copies available in every classroom;
3. Insert copies in the Parent/Student Handbook; and
4. Train students and staff annually on reporting bullying complaints.

Students shall be encouraged to report bullying/cyberbullying complaints to Intermediate Unit employees and their parents/guardians. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to report suspected bullying incidents to the program supervisor/building principal.

Employees who receive a complaint alleging bullying/cyberbullying shall investigate to determine if bullying/cyberbullying is indicated and record all such incidents in a discipline report. If the employee suspects that bullying/cyberbullying has occurred, the program supervisor/building principal must be notified. Employees who witness acts of bullying shall respond appropriately to ensure observed acts of bullying cease and to teach students that bullying is unacceptable behavior.

The program supervisor/building principal is responsible to inform and/or update parents/guardians of the incident details as appropriate.

Students who are found to have bullied others will receive consequences as outlined in Board Policy and the Parent/Student Handbook, Code of Student Conduct section.

Depending upon the severity of a particular situation, the program supervisor/building principal may also take appropriate steps to further ensure staff/student safety. Such steps may include implementation of a safety plan; separating and increased supervision of students involved; providing employee support for students as needed; consulting with the Intermediate Unit's Solicitor prior to assigning discipline; and reporting incidents to law enforcement, if appropriate.