

Bullying Policy for Students

Prohibition of Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying

The Schuylkill Haven Area School District is committed to a safe and civil educational environment free from harassment, intimidation or bullying for all students, employees, volunteers and patrons. Any student in the district who engages in conduct, which constitutes bullying as defined in this policy, shall be subject to discipline up to and including expulsion.

Definition of Bullying

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 and/or outside a school setting, that is severe, persistent or pervasive and has the effect of doing any of the following:

1. Substantial interference with a student's education.
2. Creation of a threatening environment.
3. Substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school.

Information Complaint Process

Students and parents/guardians should make all reports to a staff member or administrator. Staff should inform an appropriate supervisor when they receive complaints of harassment, intimidation, or bullying.

Consequences of Violation of Policy

Any student, whether it is the accuser or the accused, in this district that is found to have engaged in conduct considered to be bullying may be subject to discipline up to and including expulsion. Determination of appropriate disciplinary sanctions or education requirements shall be based upon the circumstances of the individual case, considering the following factors among others:

- Severity of the misconduct
- Pervasiveness or persistence of the misconduct
- Effect on the victim or victims
- Intent of the perpetrator

Informal remedies include an opportunity for the complainant(s) to explain to the alleged perpetrator that the conduct is unwelcome, disruptive, or inappropriate either in writing or face-to-face; a statement from a staff member to the alleged perpetrator that the alleged conduct is not appropriate and could lead to discipline if proven or repeated; or a general public statement from an administrator in a building reviewing the district harassment, intimidation and bullying policy with the perpetrator.

Retaliation or reprisal against any person who reports a bullying incident(s) is strictly prohibited. Likewise, students and staff are prohibited from knowingly or willfully falsely accusing one another of bullying as a means of retaliation, or reprisal. The consequence and appropriate remedial action for a person who engages in retaliation or reprisal shall be determined by the principal or his/her designee after consideration of the nature and circumstances of the act, in accordance with case law, Federal and State statutes and regulations, and district policies and procedures.

Disciplinary actions taken may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Counseling within the school
- Parental Conference
- Loss of privileges
- Transfer to another classroom, school building, or school bus.
- Exclusion from school-sponsored activities
- Detention
- Suspension
- Expulsion
- Counseling outside of school
- Referral to law enforcement officials