Policy No. <u>256</u>

RICT Section PUPILS

KEYSTONE OAKS SCHOOL DISTRICT

Policy Guide



Title <u>BULLYING/CYBERBULLYING</u>

Adopted NOVEMBER 15, 2007

Last Revised JUNE 17, 2025

POLICY NO. 256 BULLYING/CYBERBULLYING

Section 1 Purpose

The Board is committed to providing a safe, positive learning environment for district students. 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.

Section 2 Definitions

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:

SC 1303.1-A

- 1. Substantially interfering with a student's education.
- 2. Substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.
- 3. Creating a threatening environment.

Bullying, as defined in this policy, includes cyberbullying.

School setting means in the school, on school grounds, in school vehicles, on contracted school vehicles, at a designated bus stop, or at any activity sponsored, supervised, or sanctioned by the school and/or District. This shall also include hours in which a student would be considered "present" during

SC 1303.1

synchronous virtual instruction, anytime a student is using a district owned device, is on the district network and/or using a district provided learning management platform.

Section 3 Authority

The Board prohibits all forms of bullying by district students.

No student, person in parental relation, coach, sponsor, volunteer or district employee shall engage in, condone or ignore any form of hazing.

The Board encourages students who believe they or others have been bullied to promptly report such incidents to any staff member.

Students are encouraged to use the District's report form (103-AR-1), available from the building principal, or to put the complaint in writing; however, oral complaints shall be accepted and documented. The person accepting the complaint shall handle the report objectively, neutrally and professionally, setting aside personal biases that might favor or disfavor the student filing the complaint or those accused of a violation of this policy.

The Board directs that verbal and written complaints of bullying shall be investigated promptly, and appropriate corrective or preventative action be taken when allegations are substantiated. The Board directs that any complaint of bullying brought pursuant to this policy shall also be reviewed for conduct which may not be proven to be bullying under this policy but merits review and possible action under other Board policies.

When a student's behavior indicates a threat to the safety of the student, other students, school employees, school facilities, the community or others, district staff shall report the student to the threat assessment team, in accordance with applicable law and Board policy 236.1

Discrimination/Harassment

Every report of alleged bullying that can be interpreted at the outset to fall within the provisions of policies addressing

SC 1303.1-A

SC 1302-E Pol. 236.1

Pol. 103, 103.1

potential violations of laws against discrimination or harassment shall be handled as a joint, concurrent investigation into all allegations and coordinated with the full participation of the Compliance Officer and Title IX Coordinator. If, in the course of a bullying investigation, potential issues of discrimination or harassment are identified, the Title IX Coordinator shall be promptly notified, and the investigation shall be conducted jointly and concurrently to address the issues of alleged discrimination or harassment as well as the incidents of alleged bullying.

Confidentiality

Confidentiality of all parties, witnesses, the allegations, the filing of a complaint and the investigation shall be handled in accordance with applicable law, regulations, this policy and the District's legal and investigative obligations.

Retaliation

Reprisal or retaliation relating to reports of bullying or participation in an investigation of allegations of bullying is prohibited and shall be subject to disciplinary action.

Section 4 Delegation of Responsibility

Every student and employee shall be responsible to respect the rights of others and to ensure an atmosphere free of bullying.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop administrative regulations to implement this policy. In addition, the Administration will develop procedures for training all employees, including chaperones and sponsors on the Policy.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that this policy and administrative regulations are reviewed annually with students.

The Superintendent or designee, in cooperation with other appropriate administrators, shall review this policy every three (3) years at a minimum and recommend necessary revisions to the Board.

SC 1303.1-A

SC 1303.1-A

District administration shall annually provide the following information with the school safety and security incident report:

SC 1303.1-A Pol. 805.1

- 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.

The Administration is directed to evaluate the need, if any, for District-wide or building-level evidence-based bullying prevention programs, and to report its findings to the Board with appropriate recommendations.

The Administration is directed to continue to assess, and to make recommendations to the Board, for any appropriate changes to existing intervention programs and practices in place to address the needs of students who are bullied, and the issues relating to students who engage in bullying.

Section 5 Guidelines

The Code of Student Conduct, which shall contain this policy, shall be disseminated annually to students.

SC 1303.1-A 22 PA Code 12.3 Pol. 218

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.

SC 1303.1-A

Education

The District shall develop, implement and evaluate bullying prevention and intervention programs and activities. Programs and activities shall provide district staff and students with appropriate training for effectively responding to, intervening in and reporting incidents of bullying.

SC 1302-A, 1303.1-A 20 U.S.C. 7118

Consequences for Violations

A student who violates this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action consistent with the Code of Student Conduct, which may include:

SC 1301.1-A Pol. 218, 233

- 1. Counseling within the school.
- 2. Parental/person in parental relation conference.
- 3. Loss of school privileges.
- 4. Transfer to another school building, classroom or school bus.
- 5. Exclusion from school-sponsored activities.
- 6. Detention.
- 7. Suspension.
- 8. Expulsion.
- 9. Counseling/Therapy outside of school.
- 10. Referral to law enforcement official.

Previously Revised: June 21, 2022; November 17, 2020; November 20, 2018; December 15, 2015; December 6, 2012

References:

School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 1301.1, 1302-A 1302-E, 1303.1-A

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

Activities to Support Safe and Healthy Students – 20 U.S.C. Sec. 7118

Board Policy – 103, 103.1, 218, 233, 236.1, 805.1