HOPEWELL AREA
SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS
TITLE: BULLYING/CYBERBULLYING
ADOPTED: December 16, 2008
REVISED: August 14, 2012

249. BULLYING/CYBERBULLYING

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.

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.

Bullying, as defined in this policy, includes cyberbullying.

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.

The Board prohibits all forms of bullying by district students.

The Board encourages students who have been bullied to promptly report such
incidents to the building principal or designee.

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 district’s legal and investigative
obligations. No reprisals or retaliation shall occur as a result of good faith reports of
bullying.
| 4. Delegation of Responsibility | Each student shall be responsible to respect the rights of others and to ensure an atmosphere free from bullying.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop administrative regulations to implement this policy.

SC 1303.1-A | The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that this policy and administrative regulations are reviewed annually with students.

SC 1303.1-A | The Superintendent or designee, in cooperation with other appropriate administrators, shall review this policy every three (3) years and recommend necessary revisions to the Board.

SC 1303.1-A | District administration shall annually provide the following information with the Safe School Report:

1. Board’s Bullying Policy.
3. Information on the development and implementation of any bullying prevention, intervention or education programs.

5. Guidelines

SC 1303.1-A Title 22 Sec. 12.3 Pol. 218

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

SC 1302-A, 1303.1-A Pol. 236

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, if available.

Education

The district may develop and implement bullying prevention and intervention programs. Such programs shall provide district staff and students with appropriate training for effectively responding to, intervening in and reporting incidents of bullying.
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:

1. Counseling within the school.
2. Parental 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 officials.

References:

School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 1302-A, 1303.1-A
State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec. 12.3
Board Policy – 000, 218, 233, 236, 248