

York Adams Academy

Section: Pupils

Title: Bullying/Cyberbullying

Number: 249

Status: Active

Legal: 1. 24 P.S. 1303.1-A
 2. 24 P.S. 1302-A
 4. Pol. 236
 5. Pol. 218
 6. Pol. 233
 22 PA Code 12.3
 Pol. 000
 Pol. 248

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249. Bullying/Cyberbullying	
1. Purpose	The Board is committed to providing a safe, positive learning environment for academy 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 academy students.
2. Authority	The Board prohibits all forms of bullying by academy students. [1] The Board encourages students who have been bullied or are aware of bullying to promptly report such incidents to the building principal or designee.
3. 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:[1] <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>Bullying, as defined in this policy, includes cyberbullying, via any form of</p>

	<p>electronic communication including, but not limited to phone, Internet, e-mail, text messaging, chat rooms, and/or instant messages. Cyberbullying may also constitute the crime of cyber harassment and as such may be subject to criminal prosecution. Where appropriate the Board directs that instances of bullying or cyberbullying be referred to law enforcement.</p> <p>School setting means in the school, on school grounds, in school vehicles or at any activity sponsored, supervised or sanctioned by the school on or off school property.[1]</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>The Superintendent of Record or designee may develop administrative regulations to implement this policy.</p> <p>The Superintendent of Record or designee shall ensure that this policy and administrative regulations are reviewed at least annually with students.[1]</p> <p>Academy administration shall annually provide the following information with the Safe School Report to the Pennsylvania Department of Education:[1]</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</p>	<p><u>Complaint Procedure – Student/Third Party</u></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 academy’s legal and investigative obligations. No reprisals or retaliation shall occur as a result of good faith reports of bullying.</p> <p>Step 1 – Reporting</p> <p>A student or third party who believes s/he has been subject to conduct that constitutes a violation of this policy is encouraged to immediately report the incident to the director or a YAA employee.</p> <p>An academy employee who suspects or is notified that a student has been subject to conduct that constitutes a violation of this policy shall immediately report the incident to the director.</p> <p>If the director is the subject of a complaint, the student, third party or</p>

employee shall report the incident directly to the Superintendent of Record or designee.

Step 2 – Investigation

The investigation may consist of individual interviews with the complainant, the accused, and others with knowledge relative to the incident. The investigator may also evaluate any other information and materials relevant to the investigation.

The obligation to conduct this investigation shall not be negated by the fact that a criminal investigation of the incident is pending or has been concluded.

Step 3 – Academy Action

If the investigation results in a finding that the complaint is factual and constitutes a violation of this policy, the academy shall take prompt, corrective action to ensure that such conduct ceases and will not recur.

Disciplinary actions shall be consistent with the Code of Student Conduct, Board policies and academy procedures, and state and federal laws.

Distribution

This policy shall be:

1. Available in every academy classroom.
2. Posted at a prominent location in each school building where such notices are usually posted.
3. Reviewed with students at least once each school year.

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 but not be limited to:[1][5][6]

1. Parental notification.
2. Verbal or written reprimand.
3. Parental or student conference.
4. Withdraw from the academy.
5. Referral to law enforcement for investigation of possible criminal

charges, including but not limited to cyber harassment.

6. Restitution for property damage.

If it is concluded that a student has made intentional false accusations, such student may be subject to disciplinary action, consistent with the student discipline code.