

WILSON AREA  
SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: STUDENTS

TITLE: BULLYING/CYBER BULLYING  
#5115.1

<p>1. Purpose</p>	<p>The goal of the Wilson Area School District is to provide a safe, positive learning climate for students. The Board of Education is committed to the goal of creating and maintaining a school environment where all students and employees are treated with respect and dignity, and are free from bullying, intimidation and harassment. Bullying is a violation of our district's core values and will not be tolerated. The action of any one person or group of individuals that threatens the health and safety of students and/or staff will be promptly addressed.</p>
<p>2. Definition</p>	<p>Bullying takes the form of many different behaviors and shall be defined as repeated and systematic harassment and/or attacks on others perpetrated by individuals or groups. Bullying, as defined in this policy, includes cyberbullying. Bullying is also defined as intentional electronic, written, verbal, or physical acts or series of acts directed at another student or students, 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"><li>1. Substantial interference with a student's education</li><li>2. Creation of a threatening environment</li><li>3. Substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school</li></ol>
<p>3. Authority</p>	<p>The Board prohibits all forms of bullying by district students.</p> <p>The Board encourages students who have been bullied to promptly report such incidents to the building principal or designee.</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 district's legal and investigative</p>

<p>4. Delegation of Responsibility</p>	<p>obligations. No reprisals or retaliation shall occur as a result of good faith reports of bullying.</p> <p>Each staff member shall be responsible for maintaining an educational environment free from bullying. Staff members who observe or become aware of an act of bullying shall take immediate, appropriate steps to intervene. If a staff member believes that his/her intervention has not resolved the matter, he/she shall report the bullying to the school administration for further investigation. This investigation may include interviews with students, parents, and school staff, reviews of school records, and any other appropriate means of investigation.</p> <p>If the investigation results in a substantiated charge of bullying, the school district shall take prompt action to eliminate any further bullying. Complaints involving bullying at the building level may be resolved informally through confidential mediation, counseling, or informal discussion. If a satisfactory, informal resolution is reached, no further investigation or action is required.</p> <p>A substantiated charge against a student shall subject the offender to disciplinary action, consistent with the School District Code of Conduct, School District Acceptable Use of Internet Policy, and any other applicable Board policy, and may include detention, suspension, expulsion and referral to law enforcement. All verified incidents of bullying are recorded and retained at both the building and district levels and placed on state violence reports as required.</p> <p>The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that this policy and administrative regulations are reviewed annually with the students.</p> <p>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.</p>
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<p>5. Appeal Procedure</p>	<p>If the complainant or accused is not satisfied with the school principal's decision, the student, parent or guardian may appeal to the superintendent.</p>
<p>6. Guidelines</p>	<p>A copy of this policy will be distributed to parents, staff and students and posted on the district's website. Additionally, parents, staff and students will be advised of this policy through educational programs and written materials.</p>
<p>7. Education</p>	<p>The school setting provides an opportunity to teach children and emphasize among staff that cooperation and respect of others is a District value. District adopted anti-bullying programs are designed to decrease incidents of bullying, and to help students build supportive relationships with one another. Staff members are in-serviced on the warning signs of bullying as well as their responsibility to be actively involved in the prevention of bullying.</p>