

# Palmyra Area School District

No. 249

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: BULLYING

ADOPTED: December 11, 2008

REVISED:

249. BULLYING	
1. Purpose	<p>The Board strives to provide a safe, positive learning climate in the schools. Therefore, it shall be the policy of the School District to maintain an educational environment in which bullying in any form is not tolerated.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. All forms of bullying by school district students are hereby prohibited. Anyone who engages in bullying in violation of this Policy shall be subject to appropriate discipline, which includes, but is not limited to; detention, suspension, or expulsion.</li><li>b. Students who have been bullied shall promptly report such incidents to any staff member.</li><li>c. Complaints of bullying shall be investigated promptly, and corrective action shall be taken when a complaint is verified. Neither reprisals nor retaliation shall occur as a result of the submission of a complaint.</li><li>d. The School District shall annually inform students that bullying of students will not be tolerated.</li></ol>
2. Definitions	<p><b>Bullying</b> shall mean an intentional electronic, written, verbal or physical act, or a series of acts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Directed at another student or students;</li><li>2. Which occurs in a school setting;</li><li>3. That is severe, persistent or pervasive; and</li><li>4. That has the effect of doing any of the following:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>i Substantially interfering with a student's education;</li><li>ii Creating a threatening environment; or</li><li>iii Substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.</li></ol></li></ol> <p><b>School setting</b> shall mean 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.</p> <p>The term "bullying" shall not be interpreted to infringe upon a student's right to engage in legally protected speech or conduct.</p>
3. Delegation of Responsibility	<p>Each staff member shall be responsible to maintain an educational environment free of bullying.</p>

<p>4. Complaint Procedure</p> <p>5. Violation</p>	<p>Each student shall be responsible to respect the rights of his/her fellow students and to ensure an atmosphere free from all forms of bullying.</p> <p>Students shall be encouraged to report bullying complaints to any staff member.</p> <p>Any staff member who receives a bullying complaint shall gather information or seek administrative assistance to determine if bullying has occurred. If the behavior is found to meet the definition of bullying, the building principal must complete the appropriate written documentation.</p> <p>The building principal or his/her designee will inform the parents or guardians of the victim and also the parents or guardians of the accused.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. A student shall report a complaint of bullying, orally or in writing, to a staff member. If a parent initiates the complaint, the appropriate staff member will follow-up with the student.</li><li>2. The staff member will either gather in information or seek administrative assistance to determine if the alleged bullying conduct occurred.</li><li>3. After the information has been gathered, the building principal shall be notified of the complaint. The building principal will determine the need for further investigation or the appropriate intervention, which may result in administrative discipline to ensure that the conduct ceases. If the behavior is found to meet the definition of bullying, the building principal must complete the appropriate written documentation.</li></ol> <p>A violation of this Policy shall subject the offending student to appropriate disciplinary action, consistent with the student discipline code, which may include suspension, expulsion, or notification to the appropriate authorities.</p>
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