

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: ANTI-BULLYING

ADOPTED: May 30, 2006

REVISED:

WYOMING AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

| 250. ANTI-BULLYING | |
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| 1. Purpose | The Wyoming Area School District is committed to providing all students and employees with the right to a safe and civil educational environment, free from harassment or bullying. Wyoming Area recognizes that bullying interferes with the learning process, and may present an obstacle to the academic, vocational, and social/emotional development of students. |
| 2. Definitions | <p>A pattern of repeated harmful behavior by a person with more physical or social power toward a less powerful person. This may include a wide variety of behaviors, with deliberate intent to hurt, embarrass, or humiliate the other person. Researchers have identified four forms of bullying:</p> <p><u>Physical</u>: the most commonly known form; includes hitting, kicking, spitting, pushing and taking personal belongings.</p> <p><u>Verbal</u>: includes taunting, malicious teasing, name-calling, and making threats.</p> <p><u>Psychological or Relational</u>: involves spreading rumors, manipulating social relationships, and engaging in social exclusion or intimidation.</p> <p><u>Cyber-Bullying</u>: forms of verbal and psychological bullying may also occur on the internet through e-mail, instant messaging, or personal profile websites such as My-Space.</p> |
| 3. Authority | It shall be a violation of this policy for any student to bully another student on district grounds, at any school activity, or on the way to or from school. |
| 4. Delegation of Responsibility | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Responsibility of students, parents, families to adhere to policy and report bullying behaviors. B. Responsibility of employees to take immediate, appropriate steps to intervene, including reporting bullying behaviors to the designated administrator. C. Responsibility of the designated administrator to enforce the policy clearly and consistently; coordinate education of students, parents, and teachers regarding the policy. |

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| <p>5. Guidelines</p> | <p>Policy will be included in student handbook, posted in conspicuous areas of the building, and discussed in teacher orientation/in-service.</p> <p><u>Investigation Procedures</u></p> <p>Upon learning about a bullying incident, the principal or designee shall interview both students, and thoroughly investigate. This investigation may include interviews with students, parents and school staff; the review of school records; and identification of parent and family issues.</p> <p><u>Consequences/Intervention</u></p> <p>Consequences for students who bully others will be subject to disciplinary options that may include counseling, a parent conference, detention, suspension or other consequences as provided in the Code of Student Conduct.</p> <p><u>Dissemination and Training</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A summary of this policy shall be included in the student handbook.2. This policy shall be conspicuously posted in each building in an area accessible to pupils and staff.3. Discussion of the policy shall be included in the orientation of each new teacher and periodically in staff development workshops. <p><u>Confidentiality</u></p> <p>The Wyoming Area School District recognizes that both the complaining student and the alleged bully/extorter have strong interest in maintaining the confidentiality of the allegations and related information. The privacy of the complaining student, the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses will be respected as much as possible, consistent with legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to comply with Family Education Privacy Rights Act (FERPA) and any discovery or disclosure obligations. As limited by FERPA protections, the principal or his/her designee may inform the complaining student/parents of the outcome of the investigation.</p> |
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Reprisal

Any student who retaliates against another student for reporting bullying or extortion or for assisting or testifying in the investigation or hearing may be subject to disciplinary action.

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