

LOWER DAUPHIN SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: BULLYING AND EXTORTION

ADOPTED: June 21, 2004

REVISED: 12/15/08, 9/10/12

	<p style="text-align: center;">249. BULLYING, CYBERBULLYING AND EXTORTION</p> <p>1. Purpose The Lower Dauphin School District strives to provide a safe, positive learning climate for students. It shall be the policy of the District to maintain an environment in which bullying, cyberbullying and extortion are not tolerated.</p> <p>The Lower Dauphin School District recognizes that bullying and extortion have a negative effect on school climate. Students who are intimidated and fearful cannot give their education the single-minded attention they need for success. Every student has the right to an education and to be safe in and around the school and at school activities.</p> <p>2. Definition Bullying shall mean an intentional electronic, written, verbal, or physical act, or a series of acts by one student or a group of students:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Directed at another student or students; 2. Which occurs in or outside a school setting; 3. That is severe, persistent or pervasive and has the effect of doing any of the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Substantially interfering with a student’s education ii. Creating a threatening environment; or iii. Substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school. <p>Bullying, as defined in this policy, includes cyberbullying via any form of electronic communication, including but not limited to, phone, text messaging, internet, web sites, e-mail, blogs, chat rooms, and/or instant messaging.</p> <p>School Setting 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>Extortion is the action of one student or a group of students to obtain or withhold the property of another student by force, threat of violence or other harm, or intimidation.</p>
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<p>3. Prohibition</p>	<p>It shall be a violation of this policy for any student to bully or cyber-bully another student or to extort property from another student, on District grounds, during the time traveling to and from school, or at any school activity on or off campus.</p>
<p>4. Delegation of Responsibility</p>	<p>The District expects staff members who observe or become aware of an act of bullying or extortion to take immediate, appropriate steps to intervene. If a staff member believes that his/her intervention has not resolved the matter, or if the bullying or extortion persists, s/he shall report the bullying or extortion to the school principal or assistant principal for further investigation.</p> <p>The District expects students and parents who become aware of an act of bullying or extortion to report it to a teacher or guidance counselor or the building principal for further investigation. The teacher or guidance counselor shall immediately notify the (assistant) principal.</p> <p><u>Consequences/Intervention</u></p> <p>Depending on the nature, frequency and severity of the threat and the seriousness of the interference or disruption, bullying or cyberbullying may be classified as a Level 2, 3, or 4 offense under the Level of Offense section of the Student Code of Conduct. Disciplinary options may include, but are not limited to, verbal or written reprimand, counseling, a parent conference, detention, suspension, or other consequences as provided in the Code of Student Conduct.</p>
<p>5. Guidelines</p>	<p><u>Investigation Procedures</u></p> <p>Upon learning about suspected bullying, cyberbullying or extortion, the principal or designee shall 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>Dissemination and Training</u></p> <p>A. A summary of this policy shall be included in the student handbook.</p> <p>B. This policy shall be conspicuously posted at a prominent location in each school building where such notices are usually posted and on the district web site. This policy shall be accessible in every classroom.</p> <p>C. After revision, this policy shall be reviewed with students within ninety (90) days, and thereafter, the policy shall be reviewed annually with students during orientation.</p>

<p>6. Reprisal</p>	<p><u>Programs:</u></p> <p>The administration shall develop and implement research-based violence prevention, intervention, and education programs that address risk factors that reduce incidents of problem behaviors among students, including bullying.</p> <p><u>Review/Revision:</u></p> <p>This policy shall be reviewed every three years.</p> <p><u>Reporting:</u></p> <p>A copy of this policy and information related to the development and implementation of any bully prevention, intervention, and education programs shall be annually provided to the Office of Safe Schools as part of the annual report required under Section 1303A(b).</p> <p><u>Confidentiality</u></p> <p>The Lower Dauphin School District recognizes that both the complaining student and the alleged bully/extorter have strong interests 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 designee may inform the complaining student/parents of the outcome of the investigation.</p> <p>No reprisals or retaliation shall occur as a result of good faith reports of bullying. 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.</p> <p>If it is determined that a student has deliberately made false accusations, such student shall be subject to disciplinary action, consistent with the Student Code of Conduct.</p>
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