No. 5490
SECTION: STUDENTS
TITLE: BULLYING AND CYBER BULLYING

ADOPTED: 12/15/08
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4/21/26
REVISED:

OXFORD AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

The Board strives to provide a safe, positive learning climate for students in the schools. Therefore, it shall be the policy of the School District to maintain an educational environment in which bullying and cyber bullying in any form are not tolerated.

All forms of bullying and cyber bullying by school district students are hereby prohibited. Anyone who engages in bullying or cyber bullying in violation of this Policy shall be subject to appropriate discipline.

Students who have been bullied or cyber bullied shall promptly report such incidents to the designated employees.

Complaints of bullying or cyber 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.

The School District shall annually inform students that bullying or cyber bullying of students will not be tolerated.

Cyber bullying includes, but is not limited to, the following misuses of technology: harassing, teasing, intimidating, threatening, or terrorizing another student, teacher, employee or volunteer of the School District by sending or posting inappropriate or derogatory email messages, instant messages, text messages, digital pictures or images, or Web site postings (including blogs). All forms of cyber bullying are unacceptable and, to the extent that such actions are disruptive of the educational process of the School District, offenders shall be the subject of appropriate discipline.

Bullying shall mean unwelcome verbal, written or physical conduct directed at a student by another student that has the intent of or effect of:

1. Physically, emotionally or mentally harassing a student;
2. Damaging, extorting or taking a student's personal property;
3. Placing a student in reasonable fear or physical, emotional or mental harm.
4. Placing a student in reasonable fear of damage to or loss of personal property; or
5. Creating an intimidating or hostile environment that substantially interferes with a student's educational opportunities.

The term "bullying" and "cyber bullying" shall not be interpreted to infringe upon a student's right to engage in legally protected speech or conduct.

Each staff member shall be responsible to maintain an educational environment free of bullying and cyber bullying.

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 and cyber bullying.

Students shall be encouraged to report bullying or cyber bullying complaints to School District employees.

All employees who receive a bullying or cyber bullying complaint shall investigate to determine if bullying or cyber bullying has occurred. If the behavior is found to meet the definition of bullying or cyber bullying, written documentation must be submitted to the building principal.

The building principal or his/her designee will inform parents of the victim and person accused.

Complaint Procedure

1. A student shall report a complaint of bullying or cyber bullying, orally or in writing, to a School District employee.
2. The School District employee will investigate the alleged conduct that occurred.
3. The School District employee may ask assistance from other School District employees in the investigation process.
4. After the investigation, the building principal shall be notified in writing of the complaint and the results of the investigation and shall take corrective action to ensure that the conduct ceases.

A violation of this Policy shall subject the offending student to appropriate disciplinary action, consistent with the student discipline code, which may include suspension or expulsion.