

ABINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
ABINGTON, PENNSYLVANIA

BOARD POLICY STATEMENT

REGARDING: **Bullying, Cyberbullying, and
Unlawful Harassment**

Section: **Students**

Approved: August 26, 2020

Supersedes/Amends Policy

See Also:

Related SAP; Board Policy and
Related SAP Re:

Dated: 12/9/08, 8/9/11,
1/24/12, 2/17/15,
8/25/15, 5/9/17,
10/16/19

“Discrimination/Title IX Sexual
Harassment Affecting Students”
School Code: Sections 1303.1-A
and 1302-A;

Purpose

The Board strives to provide and maintain a safe, positive learning climate for students that is free from bullying and unlawful harassment, as defined in the accompanying Superintendent’s Administrative Procedure.

Guidelines

Students who believe they or others have been subjected to bullying or unlawful harassment in violation of this Policy or the accompanying Superintendent’s Administrative Procedure are encouraged to promptly report such incidents in accordance with the accompanying Superintendent’s Administrative Procedure.

Parents/guardians, coaches, activity sponsors, volunteers, District employees, representatives, agents, and contractors shall be alert to incidents of bullying and unlawful harassment and shall promptly report such conduct in accordance with the accompanying Superintendent’s Administrative Procedure.

The District will promptly investigate all complaints or other reports of bullying and unlawful harassment in the same manner as other student disciplinary investigations, except that allegations of sexual harassment shall be investigated and handled by the Title IX Coordinator, in accordance with applicable legal obligations and the procedures outlined in the Board Policy and the Superintendent’s Administrative Procedure titled “Discrimination/Title IX Sexual Harassment Affecting Students.” Corrective action shall be taken when allegations are verified.

The District will administer appropriate discipline to any individual who violates this Policy or

the accompanying SAP, in accordance with Board Policy and any applicable Superintendent's Administrative Procedure, Student Handbook, Code of Conduct, or Collective Bargaining Agreement/Employment Contract. Complaints or other reports of bullying and/or unlawful harassment may also be referred to the appropriate law enforcement agency for investigation, as determined by the Superintendent or designee.

Confidentiality of all parties, witnesses, the allegations, the filing of a complaint and the investigation shall be handled in accordance with law and the District's legal and investigative obligations.

Reprisal or retaliation relating to reports of bullying and unlawful harassment or participation in an investigation of allegations of such conduct is prohibited and shall be subject to disciplinary action.

The District shall inform students, staff, parents/guardians, independent contractors, and volunteers that the bullying and unlawful harassment of students will not be tolerated, by a variety of methods. Such methods may include, but are not limited to, publication in handbooks, posting on the District website, and presentations to students and staff, when appropriate.