

# Anti-Bullying Policy

## BULLYING

Bullying is a cruel, harmful, physical, psychological, verbal, disruptive, demeaning, humiliating and/or coercive behavior towards another person, including harassment based on nonconformity to gender norms, gender identity, and gender expression. It is the position of the Wilkes-Barre Area Career & Technical School Joint Operating Committee that a safe learning environment for all students must be maintained and that a proper school climate be encouraged. Bullying activity should be reported to the Principal, Assistant Principal, and/or Dean of Students. Bullying matters will be dealt with on a timely, fair, firm, and just basis by the school. (See WBACTC Bullying / Cyber-bullying Policy pages 10-12)

Bullying means “an electronic, written, verbal, or physical act or series of acts directed at another student or students, or towards another person, and which occurs in a school setting (a school setting is “in the school, on school grounds, in school activities, at a designated bus stop or at any activity sponsored, supervised, or sanctioned by the school”) and the act is severe, persistent, or persuasive and has the effect of doing any of the following:

- Substantially interfering with a student’s education
- Creating a threatening environment
- Substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school
- Physically harming a student (e.g., hitting, kicking, spitting, pushing, and invading one’s personal space in an aggressive manner).
- Damaging, extorting or taking a student’s personal property.
- Placing a student in reasonable fear of physical harm.
- Placing a student in emotional unrest by spreading rumors, manipulating social relationships or environment, engaging in social exclusion, extortion, intimidation, and ridicule, including ridicule based on nonconformity to gender norms, gender identity, and gender expression.
- Cyber-bullying: forms of verbal and psychological bullying may also occur on the internet through e-mail, instant messaging, text messaging, Instagram, chat rooms, or personal profile websites such as Facebook.
- Creating an intimidating or hostile environment that substantially interferes with a student’s educational opportunities. (cite reference: 24 §PS 13-1303.1.A)
- Creating verbal statements or written remarks that are taunting, malicious, threatening or sexual.

# WILKES-BARRE AREA CAREER AND TECHNICAL CENTER

SECTION: PUPILS  
TITLE: BULLYING/  
CYBERBULLYING  
ADOPTED: May 16, 2011  
REVISED: August 6, 2018

249. BULLYING/CYBERBULLYING	
1. Purpose	The Joint Operating Committee is committed to providing a safe, positive learning environment for its students. The Joint Operating Committee recognizes that bullying creates an atmosphere of fear and intimidation, detracts from the safe environment necessary for student learning, and may lead to more serious violence. Therefore, the Joint Operating Committee prohibits bullying by students.
2. Definitions SC 1303.1-A	<p><b>Bullying</b> means an intentional electronic, written, verbal or physical act or series of acts directed at another student or students, which occurs in a school setting and/or outside a school setting, that is severe, persistent or pervasive and has the effect of doing any of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Substantial interference with a student's education.</li> <li>2. Creation of a threatening environment, including harassment based on nonconformity to gender norms, gender identity, and gender expression.</li> <li>3. Substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school.</li> </ol> <p><b>Bullying</b>, as defined in this policy, includes cyberbullying.</p>
SC 1303.1-A	<b>School setting</b> means 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.
3. Authority SC 1303.1-A	<p>The Joint Operating Committee prohibits all forms of bullying by students.</p> <p>The Joint Operating Committee encourages students who have been bullied to promptly report such incidents to the building administrator or designee.</p> <p>The Joint Operating Committee directs that complaints of bullying shall be investigated promptly, and corrective action shall be taken when allegations are verified. Confidentiality of all parties shall be maintained, consistent with the center's legal and investigative obligations. No reprisals or retaliation shall occur as a result of good faith reports of bullying.</p>

<p>4. Delegation of Responsibility</p>	<p>Each student shall be responsible to respect the rights of others and to ensure an atmosphere free from bullying.</p>
<p>SC 1303.1-A</p>	<p>The Administrative Director or designee shall develop administrative regulations to implement this policy.</p>
<p>SC 1303.1-A</p>	<p>The Administrative Director or designee shall ensure that this policy and administrative regulations are reviewed annually with students.</p>
<p>SC 1303.1-A</p>	<p>The Administrative Director or designee, in cooperation with other appropriate administrators, shall review this policy every three (3) years and recommend necessary revisions to the Joint Operating Committee.</p>
<p>5. Guidelines SC 1303.1-A Title 22 Sec. 12.3 Pol. 218</p>	<p>The administration shall annually provide the following information with the Safe School Report:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Joint Operating Committee's Bullying Policy.</li> <li>2. Report of bullying incidents.</li> <li>3. Information on the development and implementation of any bullying prevention intervention or education programs.</li> </ol>
<p>SC 1302-A, 1303.1-A Pol. 236</p>	<p>The Code of Student Conduct, which shall contain this policy, shall be disseminated annually to students.</p> <p>This policy shall be accessible in every classroom. The policy shall be posted in a prominent location within the school building and on the web site, if available.</p> <p><u>Education</u></p> <p>The center may develop and implement bullying prevention and intervention programs. Such programs shall provide staff and students with appropriate training for effectively responding to, intervening in and reporting incidents of bullying.</p>
<p>SC 1303.1-A Pol. 218, 233</p>	<p><u>Consequences For Violations</u></p> <p>A student who violates this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action consistent with the Code of Student Conduct, which may include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Counseling within the center.</li> </ol>

2. Parental conference.
3. Loss of school privileges.
4. Exclusion from school-sponsored activities.
5. Detention.
6. Suspension.
7. Expulsion.
8. Counseling/Therapy outside of the center.
9. Referral to law enforcement officials.

References:

School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 1302-A, 1303.1-A

State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec. 12.3

Joint Operating Committee Policy – 000, 218, 233, 236, 248