

6950 The West Allegheny School District has the right to expect its students to act in an appropriate manner at all times. It is, therefore, the policy of the West Allegheny School District that all students should enjoy a learning environment free from bullying, cyber bullying, physical violence, threats of physical violence, intimidation or other forms of misconduct from other students of the District.

6950.1 There is hereby established a policy strictly prohibiting bullying, cyber bullying, physical violence, threats of physical violence or intimidation in any learning area, activity area or any other place under the permanent or temporary control of the West Allegheny School District, while going to or from school, at school during athletic practices or games and at any school sponsored activity whether on West Allegheny School District property or otherwise, by or toward any other student of the West Allegheny School District.

6950.2 All students are expected to conduct themselves at all times so as to provide an atmosphere free from bullying, cyber bullying, physical violence, threats of physical violence or intimidation. Any student who engages in such conduct while acting as a member of the school community will be in violation of this policy.

6950.3 DEFINITION OF BULLYING

- a. Bullying is any unwelcome verbal, written or physical conduct directed at a student by another student that has the intent or effect of:
1. Physically, emotionally or mentally harming a student.
 2. Damaging, extorting or taking a student's personal property.
 3. Placing a student in reasonable fear of physical, emotional or mental harm.
 4. Placing a student in reasonable fear of damage to or loss of personal property.
 5. Creating an intimidating or hostile environment that interferes with a student's educational opportunities.

Examples of bullying include name calling; teasing; "putdowns"; false accusations; social isolation; circulating cruel rumors; threatening looks, gestures or actions; oral or written threats; physical intimidation; assault; or extortion.

- b. Cyber bullying is any unwelcome or abusive communications (as described above) and includes but is not limited to the following misuses of technology: harassing, teasing, intimidating, threatening, or terrorizing another student, teacher or employee of the District by sending or posting inappropriate or derogatory e-mail messages, instant messages, text messages, digital pictures or images, or web site postings (including blogs and podcasts).

- 6950.4 This policy supplements, and is not intended to replace, all other policies and adopted Student Codes of Conduct of the West Allegheny School District.
- 6950.5 The West Allegheny School District prohibits all forms of bullying, cyber bullying, violence, threats, intimidation or other misconduct by all students and staff members, contracted employees, vendors and volunteers in the school. The West Allegheny School District expects students and parents/guardians who become aware of bullying, violence, threats, intimidation, or other misconduct to report it to a school official, such as a principal, a teacher, a counselor, or a nurse, for investigation. If a staff member is the subject of the complaint, the student or parent/guardian shall report the concern to the Assistant to the Superintendent for Personnel.
- 6950.6 GUIDELINES
- a. Students, who believe they are victims of bullying, cyber bullying, violence, threats, intimidation or other misconduct, should report this concern immediately and may choose to inform the person responsible for these actions that the behavior is unwelcome, offensive or inappropriate.
 - b. Any student who retaliates against another person for reporting bullying, violence, threats, intimidation, or other misconduct may be subject to appropriate disciplinary consequences.
 - c. Any student who submits false accusations against another student may be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.
- 6950.7 REPORTING PROCEDURES
- a. Students shall be informed that they may report bullying complaints to school principals, teachers, counselors, nurses, other adult instructional or support staff (such as a coach, teacher aide, secretary, custodian, or bus driver), or a parent.
 - b. Students shall also be informed that they may submit a written complaint to the Principal by delivering the complaint to the office or to a teacher, counselor, or nurse, or contact the District's Tip Line by phone.
- 6950.8 DISCIPLINARY MEASURES
- a. If it is determined that any student has engaged in conduct in violation of these policies, rules and regulations, he/she shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including suspension or expulsion.

- b. If it is determined that any student has engaged in conduct in violation of these policies, rules and regulations, he/she may be required to meet with a school guidance counselor as a component of the disciplinary measures.
- c. The administration may contact local law enforcement officials and/or institute appropriate legal proceedings with the District Magistrate or in any court of competent jurisdiction for any violation of the code of student conduct, where appropriate.

Approved by Board 1/29/2000 (revisions approved 1-21-09)