



Bullying Policy

PURPOSE: On July 4, 2008, the General Assembly of Pennsylvania amended through HB 1067 the Pennsylvania School Code of 1949, Article XIII-A Safe Schools of the code. The amendment requires each school entity to adopt or amend its existing policy relating to bullying.

POLICY: Bullying is strictly prohibited at YouthBuild Philadelphia Charter School.

What is "bullying"?

"Bullying" is an intentional electronic, written, verbal or physical act, or a series of acts—

- (1) directed at another student or students;
- (2) which occurs in a school setting;
- (3) that is severe, persistent or pervasive; and
- (4) that has the effect of --
 - (i) substantially interfering with a student's education;
 - (ii) creating a threatening environment; *or*
 - (iii) substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

A "school setting" means in the school, on school grounds, in school vehicles, at the nearest bus stop or subway station to the school or a vocational site, or at any activity sponsored, supervise or sanctioned by the school.

Acts that occur outside a school setting are also considered to be "bullying" if those acts are directed at another student or students, are severe, persistent and pervasive or have the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education, creating a threatening environment or substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

Claims of “bullying” should be reported immediately to the Dean of Students. If the Dean is not available, claims should be reported to the Director of Programming.

What are the consequences of “bullying”?

The consequences of “bullying” behavior vary according to the severity of the behavior, as well as the frequency with which the offending student has engaged in “bullying” behavior. The consequences range from a one-day suspension to an expulsion hearing.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

YouthBuild Philadelphia Charter School will—

- incorporate its Bullying Policy into the school's Code of Student Conduct;
- make its Bullying Policy available on its publicly accessible Internet Web site, if available, and in every classroom. In addition, the policy will be posted at a prominent location at the school site and at each vocational site where notices are usually posted;
- review the policy and procedures for reporting bullying incidents with students within 90 days after their adoption and at least once every school year thereafter;
- review its policy every three years and annually provide PDE with a copy of its policy, including information related to the development and implementation of any bullying prevention, intervention and education programs. This information will be attached to annual school safety report; and
- report all incidents that qualify as bullying under the school’s adopted definition of that term, when the school reports acts of bullying to the Office for Safe Schools in accordance with section 1303-A (b).