

YouthBuild Philadelphia Charter School 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. Section 24 PS 13-1303.1 of the School Code provides that: "Each school entity shall review its policy every three (3) years and annually provide the Safe Schools Office at the Pennsylvania Department of Education with a copy of its policy relating to bullying, including information related to the development and implementation of any bullying prevention, intervention and education programs."

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, supervised 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. These acts include "cyber bullying" or offensive or threatening messages sent by email, text, tweets, blogs, photo and video sharing, chat rooms, or dash boards, in addition to those posted on social media, such as Facebook.

Claims of "bullying" should be reported immediately to the Dean of Students or the Assistant Dean of Students. If neither of those persons are available, claims of bullying should be reported to the Principal.

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 typically are requiring the offending-student to participate in YouthBuild Philadelphia’s restorative-practices process as a way to restore whatever harm was done to the victim-student. For severe incidents of “bullying,” the consequences range from a one-day suspension to an expulsion hearing.

Prevention, Intervention and Education Programs

- All-staff training on identification and prevention of bullying
- Establishing school-wide rules and expectations within the context of the School’s Core Value of Respect
- Teaching students how to intervene when they see bullying occurring
- Discussing bullying and its insidious effects on the School’s Core Value of Respect at Community Meetings.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

YouthBuild Philadelphia Charter School will –

- incorporate its Bullying Policy into the School's Code of Student Conduct;
- post its Bullying Policy at a prominent location in every classroom at the School site and at each Workforce site where notices are usually posted. In addition, the policy will be available on its publicly-accessible School website;
- 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).