

**LUZERNE
INTERMEDIATE
UNIT #18**

**SECTION: 200 PUPILS
TITLE: BULLYING/CYBERBULLYING
ADOPTED: SEPTEMBER 27, 2023**

	<p><i>249. Bulling/Cyberbullying</i></p>
<p>1. Purpose</p>	<p><i>The Luzerne Intermediate Unit Board of Directors is committed to providing all students with a safe, healthy, and civil school environment in which all members of the school community are treated with mutual respect, tolerance, and dignity. The Luzerne Intermediate Unit recognizes that bullying interferes with the learning process, and may present an obstacle to the academic, vocation and social/emotional development of students.</i></p>
<p>2. Definitions SC 1303.1-A</p>	<p><i>Bullying</i> shall mean an intentional electronic, written, verbal or physical act, or series of acts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1. Directed at another student or students.</i> <i>2. That is severe, persistent or pervasive.</i> <i>3. That has the effect of doing any of the following:</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a. Substantially interfering with a student’s education.</i> <i>b. Creating a threatening environment.</i> <i>c. Substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.</i> <i>d. Embarrassing, humiliating, intimidating, or otherwise harassing.</i> <p><i>School setting</i> shall mean 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.</p> <p><i>Bullying</i>, as defined in this policy, includes cyberbullying. Cyberbullying is defined as using the Internet, cell phones or other electronic devices to send or post text of images that result in any of the above described issues.</p>
<p>3. Authority SC 1303. 1-A</p>	<p><i>This policy is in effect while students are on property within jurisdiction of the Intermediate Unit; while on school-contracted or school-operated vehicles; and while attending or engaged in school-sponsored activities. Students who file a bullying complaint or who have assisted or participated in any manner in a bullying investigation may not be retaliated against.</i></p> <p><i>The Board prohibits all forms of bullying of students.</i></p>

	<p><i>The Board encourages students who believe they or others have been bullied to promptly report such incidents to the building administrator or program supervisor.</i></p> <p><i>Students are encouraged to use the Intermediate Unit’s report form, available from the building administrator or program supervisor, or to put the complaint in writing; however, oral complaints shall be accepted and documented. The person accepting the complaint shall handle the report objectively, neutrally and professionally, setting aside personal biases that might favor or disfavor the student filing the complaint or those accused of a violation of this policy. The Board directs that verbal and written complaints of bullying shall be investigated promptly, and appropriate corrective or preventative action shall be taken when allegations are substantiated. The Board directs that any complaint of bullying brought pursuant to this policy shall also be reviewed for conduct which may not be proven to be bullying under this policy but merits review and possible action under other Board policies.</i></p>
SC 1302-E	<p><i>When a student's behavior indicates a threat to the safety of the student, other students, school employees, school facilities, the community or others, Intermediate Unit staff shall report the student to the threat assessment team, in accordance with applicable law and Board policy.</i></p>
Pol 103.1	<p><i>Title IX Sexual Harassment and Other Discrimination</i></p> <p><i>Every report of alleged bullying that can be interpreted at the outset to fall within the provisions of policies addressing potential violations of laws against discrimination and discriminatory harassment shall be handled as a joint, concurrent investigation into all allegations and coordinated with the full participation of the Compliance Officer and Title IX Coordinator. If, in the course of a bullying investigation, potential issues of discrimination or discriminatory harassment are identified, the Title IX Coordinator shall be promptly notified, and the investigation shall be conducted jointly and concurrently to address the issues of alleged discrimination as well as the incidents of alleged bullying.</i></p> <p><i>Confidentiality</i></p> <p><i>Confidentiality of all parties, witnesses, the allegations, the filing of a complaint and the investigation shall be handled in accordance with applicable law, regulations, this policy and the Intermediate Unit’s legal and investigative obligations.</i></p> <p><i>Retaliation</i></p> <p><i>Reprisal or retaliation relating to reports of bullying or participation in an investigation of allegations of bullying is prohibited and shall be subject to disciplinary action.</i></p>
4. Delegation of Responsibility	<p><i>This policy shall be implemented through the cooperative efforts of the Executive Director, IU administrators, school staff members,</i></p>

<p>5. Guidelines SC 1303.1-A 22 PA Code 12.3 SC 1302-A Pol. 218</p>	<p><i>parents/guardians, regional police and state police, and the Intermediate Unit community.</i></p> <p><i>Each staff member shall be responsible for maintaining an educational environment free from bullying. Staff members who observe or become aware of an act of bullying shall take immediate, appropriate steps to intervene unless the intervention would be a threat to staff members' safety. In that case, or if the bullying persists, s/he shall report the bullying to the IU administrator for further investigation. This investigation may include interviews with students, parents/guardians, and school staff; review of school records; and any other appropriate means of investigation.</i></p> <p><i>Each student shall be responsible in respect to the rights of his/her fellow students, to ensure the rights of his/her fellow students, and to ensure an atmosphere free from all forms of bullying.</i></p> <p><i>The Board expects that students and parents/guardians who become aware of an act of bullying shall report it to a school official (usually the program supervisor or Director of Student Services) for further investigation. Any student who retaliates against another person for reporting bullying, intimidation and/or physical assault shall be subject to further disciplinary action.</i></p> <p><i>Students shall be informed about the policy. The policy shall be posted at a prominent location within each school building where such notices are usually posted. Each program supervisor shall ensure that the policy and procedures for reporting bullying incidents are reviewed with students within ninety (90) days after the adoption of this policy and thereafter at least once each school year.</i></p> <p><i>The Code of Student Conduct, which shall contain this policy, shall be disseminated annually to students.</i></p> <p><i>This policy shall be accessible in every classroom. The policy shall be posted in a prominent location within each Intermediate Unit locations and on the Intermediate Unit's website.</i></p> <p><i>The Intermediate Unit shall develop and implement and evaluate bullying prevention and intervention programs and activities. Such programs and activities shall provide Intermediate Unit staff and students with appropriate training for effectively responding to, and intervening in, and reporting incidents of bullying.</i></p>
<p>6. Consequences for Violations</p>	<p><i>A student who violates this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action consistent with the Code of Student Conduct, which may include:</i></p>

SC 1303.1-A
SC 1302-A
Pol. 218

1. *Counseling within the Intermediate Unit or school.*
2. *Parental conference.*
3. *Loss of school privileges.*
4. *Transfer to another school building, classroom or transportation changes.*
5. *Exclusion from school-sponsored activities.*
6. *Detention.*
7. *Suspension.*
8. *Expulsion.*
9. *Counseling/Therapy outside of the Intermediate Unit or school.*
10. *Referral to law enforcement officials.*