



# Understanding Dallastown Area School District's Bullying Policy

## **Introduction**

In 2008, several changes to the Pennsylvania School Code bullying guidelines were made requiring all school districts to adopt a policy addressing bullying. All schools must outline disciplinary consequences for bullying behavior, develop and implement a reporting procedure and form, create an investigation process for bullying incidents, submit an annual report on bullying, and review the policy every three years. On July 10, 2015, Governor Wolf signed **PA House Bill 229** into law. This law defines cyber harassment of a child and makes it a crime in the state of Pennsylvania. The Dallastown Area School District updated the 2008 bullying policy to include various types of cyberbullying that could occur.

## **How is Bullying Defined?**

- Bullying is aggressive behavior that involves unwanted, negative actions.
- Bullying involves a pattern of behavior repeated over time.
- Bullying involves an imbalance of power or strength.

## **Where does the school have authority?**

The school district will not tolerate any acts of bullying/cyberbullying occurring on school district property, at school-sponsored activities scheduled on or off school grounds, or during the time students necessarily spend traveling to and from school or school-sponsored activities, or transmitted in any way through school computers, networks or equipment. Additionally, events that include on-line activities that cause a substantial disruption to the school environment whether the student is using school resources, or not, shall be considered a nexus to the school environment. Specifically, online activities, cell phone transmission, chat rooms and any other form of online communications shall be included and encompassed.

## **What are students, staff members, or parents to do if they witness or are told about a bullying incident?**

In a timely fashion, all incidents should be reported to the building principal. The individual reporting the bullying incident should complete the bullying form. Bullying Incident Report Forms are located in all school building offices. Reports to the principal can be made without using the forms provided by the school district.

## **How are reported incidents monitored?**

Principals (or designees) investigate all reports of bullying, document the findings, notify parents of all students involved in the incident, and may use intervention strategies for protecting targeted victims from additional bullying or retaliation, and authorize interventions and/or disciplinary procedures for any guilty students.