

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 Director (or Assistant Director) of Student Life. If the Director (or Assistant Director) is not available, claims should be reported to the Program Director.

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 discipline 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.