



UNIONTOWN AREA
SCHOOL DISTRICT

*BULLYING
PREVENTION*

UASD BULLYING POLICY

Purpose

The Board is committed to providing a safe, positive learning environment for district students. The Board recognizes that bullying creates an atmosphere of fear and intimidation, detracts from the safe environment necessary for student learning, and may lead to more serious violence. Therefore, the Board prohibits bullying of district students. Early intervention, reinforcement of a consistent message and follow through from students, parents/guardians, staff and administration can ensure that everyone's right to learn and work in a safe environment is respected.

Definitions

Bullying means an intentional electronic, written, verbal or physical act or series of acts directed at another student or students, which occurs in a school setting and/or outside a school setting, that is severe, persistent or pervasive and has the effect of doing any of the following:[\[1\]](#)

Substantial interference with a student's education.

Creation of a threatening environment.

Substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school.

Bullying, as defined in this policy, includes cyberbullying.

School setting means 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.[\[1\]](#)

UASD BULLYING POLICY

Authority

The Board prohibits all forms of bullying of district students.[\[1\]](#)

The Board encourages students who have been bullied to promptly report such incidents to the building principal or designee.

The Board directs that complaints of bullying shall be investigated promptly, and corrective action shall be taken when allegations are verified. Confidentiality of all parties shall be maintained, consistent with the district's legal and investigative obligations. No reprisals or retaliation shall occur as a result of good faith reports of bullying.

Delegation of Responsibility

All students, district employees, vendors, and visitors including parents/guardians, shall conduct themselves in a manner consistent with this policy by respecting the rights of others and ensuring an atmosphere free from bullying.

The Superintendent or designee shall develop administrative regulations to implement this policy.

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that this policy and administrative regulations are reviewed annually with students.[\[1\]](#)

The Superintendent or designee, in cooperation with other appropriate administrators, shall review this policy every three (3) years and recommend necessary revisions to the Board.[\[1\]](#)

District administration shall annually provide the following information with the Safe School Report:[\[1\]](#)

1. Board's Bullying Policy.
2. Report of bullying incidents.
3. Information on the development and implementation of any bullying prevention, intervention or education programs.

UASD BULLYING POLICY

Guidelines

The Code of Student Conduct, which shall contain this policy, shall be disseminated annually to students. [\[1\]\[2\]\[3\]](#)

This policy shall be accessible in every classroom. The policy shall be posted in a prominent location within each school building and on the district website, if available.

Education

The district may develop and implement bullying prevention and intervention programs. Such programs shall provide district staff and students with appropriate training for effectively responding to, intervening in and reporting incidents of bullying. [\[4\]\[1\]\[5\]](#)

Consequences for Violations

A student who violates this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action consistent with the Code of Conduct. [\[1\]\[3\]\[6\]](#)

UAHS BULLYING PREVENTION PROGRAM

WHAT IS BULLYING?

- The goal of the Uniontown Area School District is to prevent bullying. A student is being bullied when he or she is exposed, repeatedly and over time to negative actions on the part of one or more students (Olweus). It is a negative action when someone intentionally inflicts injury or discomfort upon another. Behavior is clearly bullying when 1) there is intent to harm and 2) there is intensity and duration. The following is a non-exhaustive list of examples of bullying:
- **Direct Bullying**- A negative action when somebody hits, pushes, kicks, pinches, or restrains another by physical contact. Direct bullying can also be carried out by words (verbally or in print), by threatening, taunting, etc.
- **Indirect Bullying**- Making dirty gestures, intentionally excluding someone from a group, spreading rumors, etc.

UAHS BULLYING PREVENTION PROGRAM

RETALIATION

- The District prohibits retaliation by a student or District employee against any person who in good faith makes a report of bullying, serves as a witness, or participates in an investigation.

Examples of Retaliation:

- Examples of retaliation may include threats, rumor spreading, ostracism, and assault, destruction of property, unjustified punishments, or unwarranted grade reductions. Unlawful retaliation does not include petty slights or annoyances.

FALSE CLAIM

- A student who intentionally makes a false claim, offers false statements, or refuses to cooperate with a District investigation regarding bullying shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

TIMELY REPORTING

- Reports of bullying shall be made as soon as possible after the alleged act or knowledge of the alleged act. A failure to immediately report may impair the District's ability to investigate and address the prohibited conduct.

UAHS BULLYING PREVENTION PROGRAM

REPORTING OF SUSPECTED BULLYING

Student Report:

- To obtain assistance and intervention, any student who believes that he or she has experienced bullying or believes that another student has experienced bullying should immediately report the alleged acts to a teacher, counselor, or submit a bully report form.
- Any District employee who suspects or receives notice that a student or group of students has or may have experienced bullying shall immediately notify the guidance counselors.

BULLYING REPORT

- Bullying forms and a submission box are available in the main office

UAHS BULLYING PREVENTION PROGRAM

INVESTIGATION OF REPORT

- Reports will be investigated promptly and appropriate actions will be taken to address the alleged incidents.

Counselors investigating the report will:

- Interview the reporter.
- Interview the victim.
- Speak with any teachers that may have information regarding the report.
- Speak with the accused.

If there is evidence of bullying, counselors will:

- Inform the parents/guardians of the victim.
- Inform the parents/guardians of student that was bullying.
- Have the student that was bullying read and sign a Cease and Desist Form.
- Enter the bullying incident and disciplinary action into CSIU discipline.

UAHS BULLYING PREVENTION PROGRAM

CONSEQUENCES

1st Offense:	Warning given by counselor. Cease and Desist Form signed.
2nd Offense:	Discipline report submitted. Student subject to suspension.
3rd and Subsequent Offenses:	Discipline report submitted. Student subject to suspension and citation.

NOTICE TO PARENTS

If an incident of bullying is confirmed, the guidance counselor shall promptly notify the parents of the victim and of the student who engaged in bullying.



BULLYING

Bullying report forms and the
submission box are in the main
office

STAND UP. SPEAK OUT.