

## **GREENSBURG SALEM SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**SERIES 400 – STUDENTS**

**CODE: 400.32.1**

### **SAFE SCHOOLS POLICY**

The Greensburg Salem School District will provide a safe, healthy and civil school environment in which all members of the school community are treated with mutual respect, tolerance, and dignity. To that end, the District has in place policies, procedures, and practices that are designed to reduce and eliminate behaviors that deter from the goal of educating all students in a safe and secure environment. Inappropriate behaviors including, but not limited to, verbal and/or written threats, verbal, written or physical intimidation, harassment, bullying, cyberbullying, personal degradation or disgrace, taunting, swearing and/or other abusive language, substantial disruption of the educational process and lack of respect for educational authority and issues will not be tolerated. Each student is responsible to respect the rights of others and to ensure an atmosphere free from bullying, intimidation, harassment and any other detrimental behaviors.

This policy is in effect while students are on property within the jurisdiction of the District; while on school-contracted or school-operated vehicles, while attending or engaged in school-sponsored activities, and while students are traveling to or from school via other means.

Any violation of this policy shall be considered an infraction of the Guidelines for Student Behavior with disciplinary sanctions implemented accordingly. Any behavior that is a violation of the Pennsylvania Crimes Code will be reported to appropriate legal authorities.

The Board encourages students who have been victims of or witnesses to inappropriate behaviors to promptly report such incidents to the building principal or his/her designee. Confidentiality of all parties involved shall be maintained consistent with the District's legal and investigative obligations. Students, who, in good faith, file a complaint, make a report, or who have assisted or participated in any manner in the investigation of such a complaint or report may not be retaliated against.

#### Terroristic Behaviors

Any terroristic threat, terroristic act, discussion, written or cyber documentation or physical behavior that threatens the safety and welfare of District students, employees, and/or the community is prohibited. The District will have zero tolerance for any of these prohibited actions. Any student involved in any of these actions will be subject to disciplinary action which may include suspension

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and or expulsion. Police and/or civil authorities will be contacted and charges will be filed as warranted and appropriate.

#### Bullying

Bullying shall mean an intentional electronic, written, verbal or physical act or series of acts:

1. Directed at another student or students; and
2. Which occur in a school setting. [School setting is defined as meaning in the school, on school grounds, at a designated bus stop, while on the way to or from school or a designated bus stop, on school–operated or -contracted vehicles, or at any activity sponsored, supervised or sanctioned by the school or while traveling to or from school by other means.]; and
3. That are severe, persistent or pervasive; and
4. That has the effect of doing any of the following:
  - a. Substantially interfering with or threatening a student’s education.
  - b. Creating a threatening environment.
  - c. Substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school and/or any school program.
  - d. Threaten physical or emotional violence or harm.

Prohibited bullying acts could also occur outside of the school setting if those acts are directed at another student or students and meet the requirements of items 3 and 4 above. Prohibited bullying acts occurring outside of the school setting specifically include, but are not limited to, a student’s use of a personal computer or other electronic device outside of school [cyberbullying].

The Board prohibits all forms of bullying by District students.

Students are also advised that school officials need not wait for substantial interference with education, the actual creation of a threatening environment or the substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school to occur. School officials may discipline students when it is reasonably foreseeable that the student’s bullying acts pose a realistic threat of creating this substantial interference, threatening environment, or disruption.

The Board directs that all complaints of bullying shall be investigated promptly and corrective action shall be taken when allegations are verified.

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

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that this policy and the administrative regulations and guidelines for implementation are reviewed annually with students and staff.

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.

District administrations shall annually provide the following information with the Safe School Report:

1. The District Safe Schools (Anti-Bullying) Policy.
2. Report of bullying incidents.
3. Information on the development and implementation of any bullying prevention, intervention, or education programs.

The District will develop or adopt and implement bullying prevention and intervention programs that provide staff and students with appropriate training for effectively responding to, intervening in and reporting incidents of bullying.

#### Consequences for Violations

A student who violates this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action consistent with the Guidelines for Student Behavior, which may include:

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

#### Awareness of Policy

This policy will be included in each building's Handbook for Students and Parents and shall be disseminated annually to students. This policy will also be included in the Faculty Handbook for staff members in each of the District's schools.

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This policy shall be accessible in every classroom. It will be posted in a prominent location within each school building and be posted on the District website.

#### References

School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 1302-A, 1303.1-A

State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec. 12.3

Greensburg Salem Guidelines for Student Behavior in the Elementary Schools

Greensburg Salem Guidelines for Student Behavior in the Middle School

Greensburg Salem Guidelines for Student Behavior in the High School

Adopted: July 6, 1994  
Revised: August, 1998  
January 14, 2009