

Sussex County Charter School for Technology

POLICY

5131.2 CYBER-BULLYING

Section 1: Policy Statement

A safe and civil environment in school is necessary for students to learn and achieve high academic standards. Cyber-bullying by a student in the school directed toward another district's student or school staff member is conduct that disrupts both a student's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate its students in a safe environment.

The Board prohibits acts of cyber-bullying by students through any school owned, operated or supervised technologies. The administrative principal or designee may report allegations of cyber-bullying to law enforcement authorities.

Section 2: Definitions

"Cyber-Bullying" is the use of electronic information and communication devices to include, but not limited to e-mail messages, instant messaging, text messaging, cellular telephone communications, internet blogs, internet chat rooms, internet postings and defamatory websites that:

1. Deliberately threatens, harasses, intimidates an individual or group of individuals; or
2. Places an individual in reasonable fear of harm to the individual or damage to the individual's property; or
3. Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

"school owned, operated or supervised technologies" is any computer, networking system, electronic equipment, or any other equipment or device that may be used by a person to communicate to another which is owned, leased, operated, or under the control or supervision of the school.

Section 3: Reporting Procedure and Investigation

Any student or school staff member who believes he/she has or is being subjected to cyber-bullying, as well as any person who has reason to believe a student or school staff member has knowledge or reason to believe another student or school staff member is being subjected to or has been subjected to cyber-bullying shall immediately make a report to the Principal or designee.

The Administrative Principal or designee shall investigate all reports of such conduct. If the investigation results indicate cyber-bullying was not committed, the Principal or designee will
Section 5000: Students.....5131.2 Cyber-bullying

Sussex County Charter School for Technology

POLICY

inform the affected parties of the investigation results. In the event the investigation results indicate cyber-bullying was committed by a student on school grounds and/or using school technologies, the student will be subjected to appropriate discipline.

In the event the investigation results indicate cyber-bullying was committed by a student using non-school district technologies away from the school grounds, the Administrative Principal or designee may report the investigation results to local law enforcement. In addition, school authorizes have the right to impose a consequence on a student for conduct away from school grounds, including on a school bus or at a school-sponsored function pursuant to NJAC 6A:16-7.6. This authority shall be exercised only when it is reasonably necessary for the student's physical or emotional safety, security and well-being, or for reasons relating to safety, security and well-being of other students, staff, or school grounds, pursuant to NJSA 18A:25-2 and 18A:37-2. This authority shall be exercised only when the conduct, which is the subject of the proposed consequences, materially and substantially interferes with the requirements of appropriate discipline in the operation of the school. Consequences shall be handled in accordance with Policy and Regulations, NJAC 6A:16-7.1, and as appropriate in accordance with NJAC 6A: 16-7-2, 6A: 16-7.3, or 6A:16-7.5.

Any investigation regarding an allegation of cyber-bullying will provide all parties the appropriate due process rights, including the right to appeal the determination of the Administrative Principal or designee.

Section 4: Discipline and Consequences

Some acts of cyber-bullying may be isolated incidents requiring the school to respond appropriately to the individual committing the acts. Other acts may be so serious or part of a larger pattern of cyber-bullying that require a response either at the classroom or school building level, or by law enforcement officials.

Consequences and appropriate remedial actions for students who commit an act of cyber-bullying range from positive behavioral interventions up to and including suspension or expulsion, as permitted under NJSA 18A:37-1, Discipline of Students. In addition, cyber-bullying using district technology violates board policies on Acceptable Use and subjects students to appropriate discipline and sanctions.

Prevention and intervention techniques to prevent cyber-bullying and to support and protect victims shall include appropriate strategies and activities as determined by the Administrative Principal or designee.

Section 5: Reprisal or Retaliation Prohibited

The school prohibits reprisal or retaliation against any person who reports an act of cyber-bullying. The consequences and appropriate remedial action for a person who engages in reprisal or retaliation shall be determined by the Administrative Principal or designee after
Section 5000: Students.....5131.2 Cyber-bullying

Sussex County Charter School for Technology

POLICY

consideration of the nature and circumstances of the act, in accordance with case law, Federal and State statutes and regulation and school policies and procedures.

Section 6: Consequences for False Accusation

Consequences and appropriate remedial action for a student found to have falsely accused another of an act of cyber-bullying range from positive behavioral interventions up to and including suspension or expulsion, as permitted under NJSA 18A:37-1, Discipline of Students.

Consequences and appropriate remedial action for a school employee found to have falsely accused another of an act of cyber-bullying shall be disciplined in accordance with school policies and procedures.

Section 6: Policy Publication

This policy will be disseminated annually to all school staff, students and parent(s) or legal guardian(s).