BULLYING

THE SCHOOL SAFETY and BULLYING PREVENTION ACT
(70 OKLA. STAT. § 24-100.2)

The Oklahoma Legislature established the School Safety and Bullying Prevention Act with the express intent of prohibiting peer student harassment, intimidation, and bullying.

It is the policy of this school district that bullying of students by other students, personnel, or the public will not be tolerated. Threatening behavior, harassment, intimidation, and bullying are prohibited on school grounds, in school vehicles at school-sponsored activities, or at school-sanctioned events. Threatening behavior, harassment, intimidation, and bullying by electronic communication is prohibited whether or not such communication originated at school, or with school equipment, if the communication is specifically directed at students or school personnel and concerns harassment, intimidation, or bullying at school.

Bullying shall be subject to the same disciplinary consequences as other misconduct, including misconduct identified in the Discipline Code.

Bullying has been defined as a “pattern of harassment, intimidation, threatening behavior, physical acts, verbal or electronic communication directed toward a student or group of students that results in or is reasonably perceived as being done with the intent to cause negative educational or physical results for the targeted individual or group and is communicated in such a way as to disrupt or interfere with the school’s educational mission or the education of any students.”

1. Bullying includes, but is not limited to any gesture, written or verbal expression, or physical act that a reasonable person should reasonably believe or know will:
   A. Harm another student;
   B. Damage another student's property;
   C. Place another student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or damage to the student's property; or
   D. Insult or demean any student or group of students,

2. Conduct constitutes bullying if conducted in such a way as to disrupt or interfere with the school's educational mission or the education of any student. This includes, but is not limited to gestures, written, verbal, or physical acts, or electronic communications.

3. "Electronic Communication" means the communication of any written, verbal, video content or pictorial information by means of an electronic device, including, but not limited to, a telephone, a cellular telephone or other wireless telecommunication device, or computer.

4. "Threatening Behavior" means any pattern of behavior or isolated action, whether or not it is directed at another person, that a reasonable person would believe indicates potential for future harm to students, school personnel, or school property.

Bullying complaints will be treated with confidentiality and urgency. Complaints may be taken to any Pioneer Technology Center employee or board member. Employees or board members must report suspected bullying, even if no complaint has been received. The superintendent, staff members or any board member of PTC, upon receiving a report (formal, informal or anonymous) of harassment, intimidation, or bullying shall notify a District Compliance
BULLYING (Cont.)

Officer. The District Compliance Officer shall enforce this policy by doing the following as quickly as reasonably possible:

1. obtain an oral or written statement, from the individual who is alleged to have been harassed, intimidated, or bullied, which contains information necessary to conduct a full investigation of the matter. This information should include, but is not limited to, the name of the alleged perpetrator, the person(s) being harassed, the nature, context and extent of the prohibited activity, the dates of the prohibited activity and the names of any witnesses;

2. take reasonable and age appropriate, effective steps to separate and protect the individual who is allegedly being harassed, intimidated, or bullied from the alleged perpetrator, until the matter can be fully investigated and the appropriate remedial steps taken;

3. keep the individual who is allegedly being harassed, intimidated, or bullied reasonably apprised, to the extent allowed under federal and state privacy laws and regulations, of the investigation and the actions taken as a result of the investigation;

4. conduct a full and complete investigation, to the extent reasonably possible and appropriate to the age of those involved, regarding the alleged harassment, intimidation, or bullying, which would include, but not be limited to, interviewing the individual allegedly bullied, any witnesses, review of any supporting documents, and interviewing the alleged perpetrator;

5. determine if bullying is actually occurring; false statements will result in disciplinary or remedial action.

6. based on good judgment, common sense and the facts, as revealed by the investigation, taken as a whole and the totality of the circumstances, such as the nature, extent, age of those involved, context and gravity of such activities or incidents, take or recommend the taking of appropriate and effective measures reasonably calculated to end the bullying and prevent a reoccurrence, including but not limited to, appropriate discipline as identified in the Pioneer Technology Center Student Discipline code, or for employees, suspension, demotion, forfeiture of pay or benefits (as permitted by law), termination or reassignment. Parents and guardians of victims and perpetrators will be notified of documented and verified bullying as quickly as reasonably possible.

7. report documented and verified bullying to law enforcement if the acts may constitute criminal activity or reasonably have the potential to endanger school safety;

8. determine the severity of incidents and their potential for future violence.

Education:

Student and Staff Education and Training

All staff will be provided with access to a copy of this policy. This policy is included in the student handbook, which is posted annually on the PTC website and is available for public review. The district is committed to providing appropriate and relevant training to staff regarding identification of behavior constituting bullying of students and the prevention and management of such conduct.
BULLYING (Cont.)

Students, like staff members, shall participate in an annual education program which sets out expectations for student behavior and emphasizes an understanding of bullying of students, PTC’s prohibition of such conduct and the reasons why the conduct is destructive, unacceptable, and will lead to discipline. Students shall also be informed of the consequences of bullying conduct toward their peers.

Parent information and resources are available on the district website.

Counseling / Support:

Upon completion of an investigation school administration may communicate with the school counselor to recommend that available community mental health care, substance abuse or other counseling options be provided, if appropriate to the student. This may include information about the types of support services available to all students and families affected by bullying.

The school counselor may request the disclosure of any information concerning students who have received mental health care, substance abuse or other counseling should the harassment, intimidation, bullying indicate an explicit threat to the safety of students or school personnel provided, the disclosure of information does not violate the provisions or requirements of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, Section 2503 of Title 12 of the Oklahoma Statutes, Section 1376 of Title 59 of Oklahoma Statutes, or any other state or federal laws relating to the disclosure of confidential information.

The District Compliance Officer shall serve as the Bullying Coordinator. PTC will notify the state board of education within 15 days of the appointment of a coordinator, and will provide the OSDE with a copy of this policy by December 10th of each school year. District bullying statistics will be reported to the appropriate agency.

A copy of this policy will be furnished to each student and teacher in this school district and posted throughout the building. This policy is published in the student handbook and is accessible on the district website.

REFERENCE: 21 O.S. §850.0