



Anti-Bullying Policy

Resolution # 041720241 Revised: August 2025

Legal Authority

This Anti-Bullying Policy is adopted pursuant to the Pennsylvania School Code and related statutes. The legal basis for a Pennsylvania charter school’s anti-bullying policy is found in 24 P.S. §13-1303.1-A, which mandates that each school entity adopt and maintain a bullying policy. This section is part of Article XIII-A of the Public School Code of 1949 (the “Safe Schools Act”). Charter schools are subject to these provisions.

Additional statutory authority includes: 24 P.S. §13-1302-A (Office for Safe Schools); 24 P.S. §13-1303-A (Reporting); 24 P.S. §13-1306-B (School Safety and Security Grant Program); 24 P.S. §13-1309-B (School Safety and Security Coordinator); 24 P.S. §13-1310-B (School Safety and Security Training); and 18 Pa.C.S. §§2801–2811 (Hazing definitions, penalties, institutional obligations, safe harbor, and civil remedies).

This policy incorporates the mandatory elements required by these laws: disciplinary consequences for bullying; prevention, intervention, and education programs; a designated school staff member to receive reports; public availability of the policy on the school’s website and in classrooms; and annual submission to the Pennsylvania Department of Education including Safe Schools reporting.

Purpose and Scope

Laboratory Charter School is committed to fostering a safe, respectful, and inclusive learning environment for all students and employees. Recognizing the evolving landscape of bullying—including emerging threats such as the misuse of LiDAR technology and AI-generated movies—the Board is dedicated to preventing and addressing all forms of bullying within the school community.

This policy applies to all school buildings and property; school-sponsored activities, transportation, and field trips; school-related electronic communications and online platforms; and off-campus conduct that materially disrupts the educational environment or violates student safety. This policy is formally incorporated into the Laboratory Charter School Student Code of Conduct per 24 P.S. §13-1303.1-A and related statutes.

Definitions

Bullying: Intentional or unwanted electronic, written, verbal, physical, social, or emotional acts directed at any student within a school setting, including cyberbullying. Bullying may be severe, persistent, or pervasive and typically involves a power imbalance.

C. Cyberbullying: Cyberbullying is expressly included within the definition of bullying pursuant to 24 P.S. §13-1303.1-A of the Pennsylvania School Code. Cyberbullying refers to the use of electronic communication, devices, or online platforms to engage in conduct that meets the definition of bullying. This includes sending threatening or harassing emails, text messages, or social media posts; sharing or posting harmful, false, or humiliating information about a student or staff member online; impersonating another individual electronically to damage their reputation or relationships; and using school-issued devices or networks to intimidate or harm others.

D. LiDAR Technology: The use of LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) technology to invade privacy, intimidate, harass, or stalk students or staff is expressly prohibited under this policy. Although Pennsylvania law does not yet specifically address LiDAR in schools, its misuse may constitute violations of 18 Pa.C.S. §2709 (Harassment) or §2709.1 (Stalking) and other privacy or criminal statutes.

E. AI-Generated Movies: AI-generated multimedia content manipulated to harm, impersonate, or harass others—including deepfake content prohibited under Pennsylvania’s deepfake law—is expressly prohibited. Prohibited conduct includes creating or distributing AI-generated videos or images falsely depicting a student or staff member engaging in harmful or embarrassing acts; using AI to simulate another person’s voice, likeness, or behavior for intimidation or harassment; or disseminating such content on social media or school-related communication platforms.

F. Retaliation: Any form of retaliation or reprisal against individuals who report bullying or cooperate in investigations is strictly prohibited under this policy and may constitute a violation of 24 P.S. §13-1303.1-A and related anti-retaliation provisions.

Prohibition and Reporting

The Board strictly prohibits all forms of bullying, including traditional bullying, cyberbullying, unauthorized LiDAR scanning, and the creation or distribution of AI-generated movies intended to harm. Students or employees experiencing or witnessing bullying should promptly report to the designated School Safety Coordinator per 24 P.S. §13-1309-B or other designated authority. Reports will be promptly investigated, confidentiality will be maintained, and all incidents will be recorded in the Safe Schools report annually per 24 P.S. §13-1303-A.

Prevention and Intervention

Regular education and awareness programs will be conducted to inform students, employees, and stakeholders about the risks associated with bullying, LiDAR technology, and AI movies. This policy and its reporting procedures will be posted on the school's website, in classrooms, and reviewed with students within 90 days of adoption and annually thereafter per 24 P.S. §13-1303.1-A.

The Laboratory Charter School will develop and implement comprehensive bullying prevention and intervention programs, including training for staff, parents, and students. Staff will receive mandatory bullying awareness training as required by Pennsylvania law and supported by stopbullying.gov. Victims of bullying will be offered counseling, restorative practices, and other supportive measures.

Disciplinary Consequences

Substantiated charges against staff or students involved in bullying—including incidents related to LiDAR or AI movies—will result in disciplinary action consistent with the Student Code of Conduct or employment policies. Depending on severity, disciplinary measures may include counseling, suspension, expulsion for students, or termination for staff members. Individuals found to have made false accusations of bullying will be subject to disciplinary action per the Student Code of Conduct or employment policies.

Confidentiality

Laboratory Charter School recognizes the importance of maintaining confidentiality for all parties involved in bullying incidents, including those related to LiDAR technology or AI movies. Privacy will be safeguarded while adhering to legal obligations, including FERPA.

Implementation, Review, and Revision

The CEO or designated authority will oversee the implementation and enforcement of this policy. All members of the school community will be informed of this policy through appropriate channels, including public posting on the school's website. This policy, along with program information, will be submitted annually to the Pennsylvania Department of Education as required per 24 P.S. §13-1302-A and §13-1303-A, and all bullying incidents will be included in the Safe Schools report. This policy will be reviewed at least every three years (or annually at the school's discretion) to ensure effectiveness and relevance in addressing bullying, including emerging threats such as LiDAR technology and AI movies.

Conclusion

Laboratory Charter School is committed to creating a safe, respectful, and inclusive learning environment for all. This comprehensive policy aims to prevent and address bullying in all its forms, including protection against emerging threats such as LiDAR technology and AI movies. By upholding the values of integrity, respect, and empathy, we ensure the well-being of every member of our school community.