1. **Purpose**

The Wilson Area School District is committed to providing a safe, positive learning climate for students. The Board of Education 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 by District students.

2. **Definition**

**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
2. Creation of a threatening environment
3. Substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school

Bullying, as defined in this policy, includes cyber bullying.

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.

3. **Authority**

The Board prohibits all forms of bullying by District students.

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.
4. Delegation of Responsibility

Each student shall be responsible to respect the rights of others and ensure an atmosphere free from bullying. Each staff member shall be responsible for maintaining an educational environment free from bullying. Staff members who observe or become aware of an act of bullying shall take immediate, appropriate steps to intervene. 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 the students.

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.

The Administration shall annually provide the following information with the Safe School Report:

1. Board Bullying Policy
2. Report of bullying information
3. Information on the development and implementation of any bullying prevention, intervention or educational programs

5. Appeal Procedure

If the complainant or accused is not satisfied with the school principal’s decision, the student, parent or guardian may appeal to the Superintendent.

6. Guidelines

A copy of this policy will be distributed to parents, staff and students and posted on the District’s website. Additionally, parents, staff and students will be advised of this policy through educational programs and written materials.

7. Education

The District shall 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.

8. Consequences for Violations

A student who violates this policy shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action consistent with the code of student conduct as stated in the student handbook, which may
include:
  - Counseling within school
  - Parental conferences
  - Loss of school privileges
  - Transfer to another classroom or school bus
  - Exclusion from school-sponsored activities
  - Detention
  - Suspension
  - Expulsion
  - Counseling/therapy outside of school
  - Referral to law enforcement officials

References:
School Code – 24 P.S. Sec 1302-A, 1303.1-A
State Board of Education Regulations- Title 22 PA Code Sec. 12.3