

- C. The term "firearm" means (1) any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of any chemical explosive, compressed gas, mechanical spring and/or elastic device; (2) the frame or receiver of any such weapon; and/or (3) any firearm muffler or firearm silencer;
- D. The term "destructive device" means (1) any bomb or device that is explosive and/or, incendiary in nature, or (2) any type of weapon by whatever name known which will, or which may be readily converted to, expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, other propellant, and/or mechanical means which has any barrel with a bore. (Items traditionally classified as firecrackers may be included or excluded under this definition at the sole discretion of the Superintendent or, in the absence of the Superintendent, his designee).
- E. The term "school zone" means in, or on the grounds of any of the building or schools owned by the Tussey Mountain School District. This also includes Bus Loading Zones.
- F. Possession means being on the person of the student, in the student's locker, in a vehicle operated by the student, and/or otherwise under his or her control.

Press Release: The Superintendent or designee shall formulate a press release if deemed appropriate.

BULLYING POLICY

The Tussey Mountain School District recognizes that bullying of students has a negative effect on the educational environment of its schools. Students who are bullied, intimidated or fearful of other students may not be able to take full advantage of the educational opportunities offered by the school district. Bullying can also escalate into more serious violence. Therefore, the school district strives to offer all students an educational environment free from bullying.

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

Bullying shall mean unwelcome intentional electronic, verbal, written or physical conduct directed at a student by another student(s) that has the intent and effect of:

1. Physically harming a student.
2. Damaging, extorting or taking a student's personal property.
3. Placing a student in reasonable fear of physical harm.
4. Placing a student in reasonable fear of damage to or loss of personal property.
5. Creating an intimidating or hostile environment that substantially interferes with a student's educational opportunities.

The term bullying shall not be interpreted to infringe upon a student's right to engage in

legally protected speech or conduct.

The school district will not tolerate known acts of bullying occurring on school district property, at school-sponsored activities scheduled on and/or outside the school setting or during the time students necessarily spend traveling to and from school or school-sponsored activities, including bus stops and routes of travel to and from the bus stops or to school property on school-sponsored events.

The district expects employees and bus drivers who observe or become aware of an act of bullying or extortion to take immediate, appropriate steps to intervene. If an employee or bus driver believes that his/her intervention has not resolved the matter, or if the bullying or extortion persists, he/she shall report the bullying or extortion to the school principal for further investigation. If proper reporting is not engaged in by the employee or bus driver in a position to observe the conduct, the district reserves the right to impose discipline on the employee or request the bus contractor to discipline their employee as deemed appropriate under the circumstances.

Student, Parent/Guardian and Employee Reporting

The school district strongly encourages all students and parents/guardians who become aware of any act of bullying to immediately report that conduct. Students may report acts of bullying to their teachers, the district web site tip line, building principal or other school employees supervising school-sponsored activities. Parents/Guardians may contact the building principal to report acts of bullying.

If teachers cannot reasonably remediate acts of bullying through their own intervention, they should report the bullying to the building principal. Other school employees who observe acts of bullying shall report that conduct to the building principal or designee.

Investigation Procedures

Each building principal or designee is authorized to investigate reports of bullying brought to their attention by students, parents/guardians or school employees or bus drivers. Any investigation of a report may include meetings with students, parents/guardians or employees, a review of student records, and other reasonable efforts to better understand the facts surrounding a reported incident. Surveillance cameras are used throughout all buildings.

Consequences/Discipline

Consequences for students who are found to have bullied others may include counseling, a parental conference, detention, suspension, expulsion, loss of school privileges and/or exclusion from school-sponsored activities.

Depending upon the severity of a particular situation, the building principal may also take

appropriate steps to ensure student safety. Such steps may include separating and supervising the students involved; providing employee support for students as needed; reporting incidents to law enforcement, if appropriate; and the implementation of a safety plan and/or a supervision plan with parents/guardians.

Interplay with Other School District Policies

Nothing in this policy shall prevent school employees from enforcing, imposing discipline or fulfilling their professional responsibilities under the other school district policies or student disciplinary rules.

This policy shall not be interpreted as preventing a student or parent/guardian from filing a complaint under the school district's anti-harassment policy.

Confidentiality

The Tussey Mountain School recognizes that both the complaining student and the alleged bully/extorter have strong interest in maintaining the confidentiality of the allegations and related information. The privacy of the complaining student, the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed, and the witnesses will be respected as much as possible, consistent with legal obligations to investigate, to take appropriate action, and to comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and any discovery or disclosure obligations. As limited by FERPA protections, the principal or his/her designee may inform the complaining student/parents/guardians of the outcome of the investigation.

HAZING

The Tussey Mountain School Board has adopted a policy that does not condone any form of initiation or harassment known as "hazing" as part of any school sponsored student activity. No student, coach, sponsor, volunteer or district employee shall plan, direct, encourage, assist or engage in any hazing activity.

The text of the full policy can be acquired from the Superintendent's Office.