



St. Peter's School

Bullying and Harassment

Prevention, Intervention and Response Plan

2023 – 2024 School Year

August 2023

Dear Catholic School Parents and Students,

Welcome to the 2023-2024 school year at St. Peter's School. We are excited to begin classes and activities, and eagerly await a campus full of students, staff, and energy. It is our goal for each of our students to:

- Grow in a manner that prepares them to live as self-directed, caring, God-loving, responsible citizens.
- Develop their potential in a trust-filled atmosphere of a Catholic, Christian Community
- Exhibit beliefs and behaviors consistent with Catholic teachings

Our school prides itself on academic excellence and the variety of experiences we offer all our students. Regular attendance is the KEY to your student's success during the school year. Parents are an integral part of their student's success, both academically and in working collaboratively to help ensure a safe learning environment. Our staff works diligently to ensure every student learns in an environment free of harassment and inappropriate behaviors.

The school utilizes several strategies designed to positively impact the school climate which, in turn, increases student academic success. A selection of the strategies is listed below:

- Greeters to help students and parents feel welcome.
- Anonymous reporting mailbox for students (outside Vice Principal's office)
- Training on bullying behaviors for all staff
- School Bullying Prevention/Response/Intervention/Plan on file
- Reporting procedures for all staff
- Social Responsibility/ SEL/ Virtue themes taught and discussed in religion classes.
- ADW implemented Bullying and Harassment Policy
- Positive Behavior and classroom management techniques used in each classroom.
- Internet safety and anti-cyberbullying curriculum integrated in school.
- Protecting God's Children curriculum taught yearly.

If at any time during the school year you detect problems with your child academically, emotionally, or spiritually, please involve us immediately. We are here to help in all aspects of your child's development.

Sincerely,

Tina Wagner

Principal

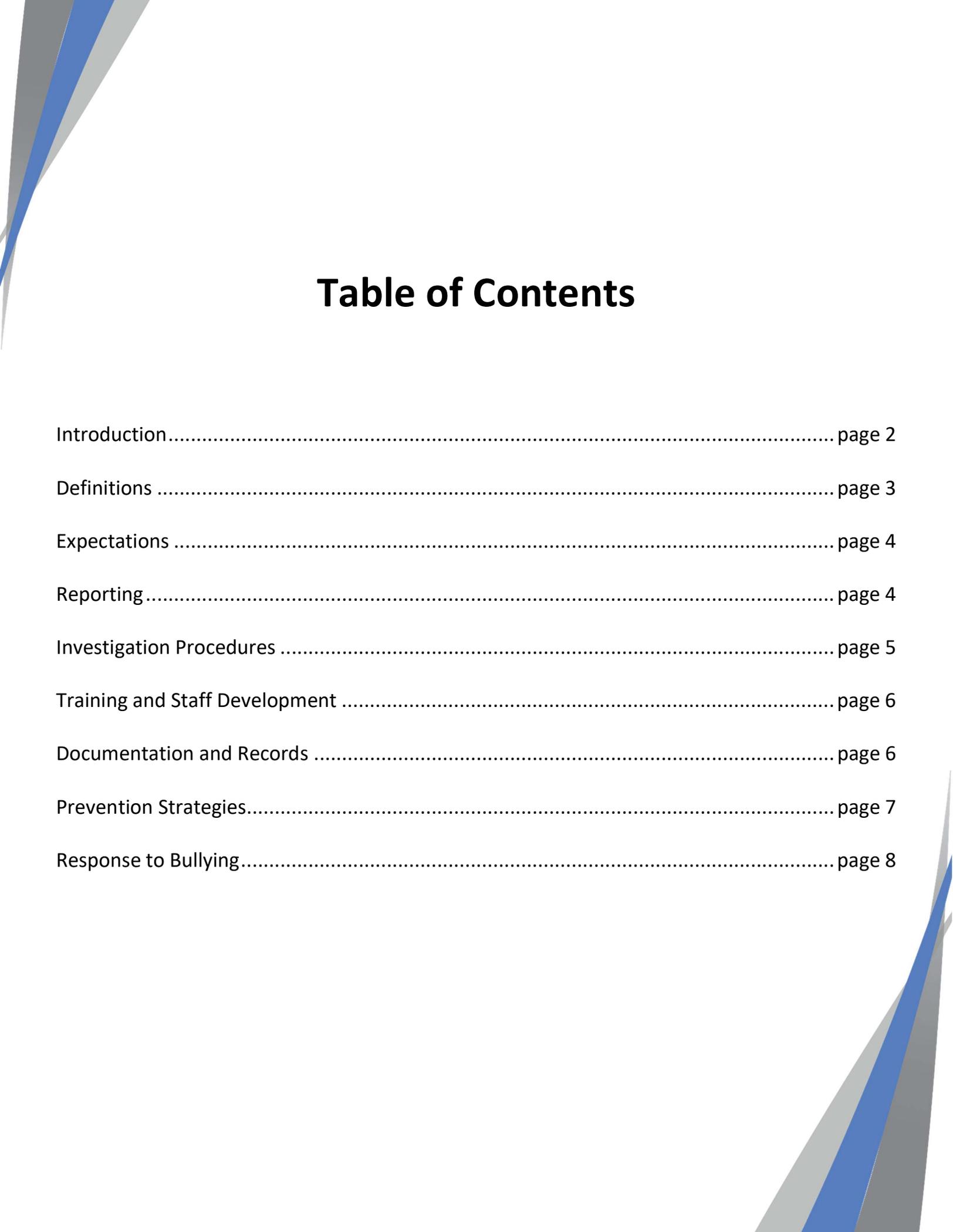


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Introduction

St. Peter's School is part of the teaching ministry of the Roman Catholic Church. Through education, we seek to prepare each student to proclaim the Good News and to transform oneself and society with God's help. We integrate religious truth and values within our daily lives, and we are committed to a Christian educational environment conducive to spiritual, intellectual, social, emotional, and physical growth of each student. As part of our commitment, we promote learning and the prevention of all forms of bullying and other harmful and disruptive behavior that might impede the learning process.

As a school community, we will take the necessary steps to create a safe, supportive environment for vulnerable populations in the school community, and we will endeavor to provide all students with the skills, knowledge, and strategies to prevent or respond to bullying, harassment, or teasing.

St. Peter's School will not tolerate any unlawful or disruptive behavior, including any form of bullying, cyberbullying, or retaliation in our school buildings, on school grounds, or during school related activities. All reports and complaints of bullying and retaliation will be promptly investigated, and the administration will take prompt action to address such behavior and restore a sense of safety for all.

Definitions

Bully - a student or adult that engages in bullying behaviors.

Bullying - repeated behavior by one or more individuals directed to another by written, verbal or electronic communication and/or physical contact including gestures or body language which may be:

- 1) Interpreted as threatening or demeaning or meant to cause emotional harm or distress to the targeted student(s)
- 2) Interpreted as intentional by both the targeted student(s) and investigating personnel.
- 3) Inflicted by the aggressor in a manner that creates a hostile learning environment for the targeted student(s)
- 4) Created or promoted by an imbalance of power between the aggressor and the targeted student(s)

Bystander - one or more individuals present viewing the bully's actions toward the targeted classmate(s) that encourages, promotes, or otherwise supports the bullying including remaining and acting as an audience for the bully.

Confidentiality - the expectation that anything said, done or revealed will be kept private.

Cyber Bullying - bullying directed to one or more individuals using technology, including but not limited to, electronic communication devices and displayed as email, images, text messages, postings, or conversations.

Hostile Learning Environment - the impact from the actions of one or more individuals to a student(s) that results negatively in the education received by the targeted student(s)

Retaliation - any action, verbal or otherwise, interpreted as reprisal directed to an individual that reports bullying or an individual that attempts to help the targeted student(s)

Reclassified - facts uncovered during the investigation do not support a finding of bullying but do support a violation(s) of other sections of the Student Code of Conduct

Substantiated - facts uncovered during the investigation support a finding that bullying occurred.

Unfounded - facts uncovered during the investigation indicate no violation of the Student Code of Conduct

Unsubstantiated - facts uncovered during the investigation are conflicting and inconclusive in establishing a definitive finding that bullying occurred.

Witness - one or more individuals present viewing the bully's actions toward the targeted classmate(s) and not exhibiting behaviors consistent with being a bystander.

Victim or Target - one or more students that are recipients of bullying.

Expectations

All staff and faculty and other adults regularly working with students at St. Peter's School are expected to be observant for both students engaging in bullying behaviors and those exhibiting characteristics of having been bullied.

Furthermore, all are expected to be familiar with and adhere to all provisions in the school's policy, as provided below, and procedures and directives for preventing, responding, reporting, and intervening in bullying.

Reporting

Every student, staff member and parent of St. Peter's School has an ethical and moral obligation to report when they have reason to believe bullying has or is occurring. Additionally, staff has a legal obligation to report, and St. Peter's School has directed all staff to notify the principal as soon as possible.

Staff will provide a written account of the incident using the Bullying & Harassment Report Form available from the school.

Students are taught to notify the nearest adult when they have knowledge bullying has or is occurring. Students will be provided with a Bullying Report Form and instructed to detail their observations and knowledge of the incident(s).

Students are also provided with a way to report anonymously. They may report by submitting an unsigned "Bullying Report Form" or by placing a note in the mailbox outside of the Vice Principal's office.

Parents are encouraged to report bullying to St. Peter's School by directly contacting an administrator or teacher. Parents may also obtain a hard copy of the Bullying Report Form from the school office. Options for reporting bullying by parents or students are detailed in the Parent Student Handbook.

When a reporting parent or student requests to remain anonymous, school officials will attempt to honor the confidentiality of the individual to the degree permitted by law. Whether anonymous or not, all reports of bullying will be fully investigated by the Principal or designee assigned to do so.

Investigation Procedures

All reported and observed acts of bullying and harassment will be investigated by St. Peter's School personnel. The following guidelines outline the general investigative procedures; however, specifics for individual investigations may vary depending upon circumstances.

- An administrator or designee is responsible for investigating reports of bullying. Reports will be directed to his/her attention, and an investigation will be initiated within two business days.
- Parents of the targeted student(s) and of the alleged bully(s) will be notified as soon as enough information has been gathered to provide basic information to one or both parents. This should occur within 24 hours of the beginning of the investigation.
- Investigations may include but are not limited to:
 - *Interviews with all affected students including witnesses, bystanders and adults with potential knowledge of the reported incident*
 - *Written statements from all parties having pertinent information*
 - *The collection and review of any evidence such as notes, recordings, images or affected properties*
 - *Notification of law enforcement when requested by the target or parent(s), OR when there is sufficient reason to believe a criminal act was committed OR if reporting is required by Statute or the school believes it is essential to maintaining a safe and orderly environment*
 - *Periodic updates to parents of the targeted student(s) and the alleged bully(s)*
 - *Updates, as appropriate, to staff with a need to know*
 - *Updates and contacts included in investigative reports with parents of all affected parties notified, as appropriate to circumstances, of the findings and determination related to the report of bullying*
 - *A summary of findings indicating the report of bullying was either "Substantiated", "Unsubstantiated", "Reclassified" or "Unfounded"*

Training and Staff Development

All staff and faculty, including those individuals serving in a substitute or regularly scheduled volunteer role, will receive annual training in St. Peter's School Bullying Prevention and Intervention procedures. When possible, the training will be conducted as a part of pre-service activities before the school year starts.

As needed these procedures will be revisited throughout the school year and explained to any personnel hired or volunteering after the initial training.

Documentation and Records

St. Peter's School will maintain records of all investigative notes, oral and written interviews, reports, and evidence to the degree practical or photographs of such for a period of at least two school years. As appropriate and allowed under state law, records and investigation information will be shared with authorized agencies and individuals.

Prevention Strategies

St. Peter's School employs both general and specific strategies meant to minimize the occurrence of bullying. The prevention of bullying is a collaborative effort between the school, students, and staff.

1. A comprehensive bullying prevention curriculum is included and integrated within classroom instructions and the teachings of the Catholic faith. All students will treat each other with respect and dignity.

Students, through direct instruction, role playing, and other activities will learn how to respond appropriately when a classmate is being teased, picked on, abused, tormented, or harassed. Avenues for reporting bullying will be made available, and students will be taught it is their duty and responsibility to alert an adult when bullying is observed.

Students are guided in the appropriate use of social media including the philosophy that all dialogue with others on the internet should be consistent with their behavior in face-to-face interactions.

2. The school uses written supervision plans which can identify areas where bullying has been observed or is more likely to occur. Plans should direct staff to pay attention to those identified areas.

Responses to Bullying

Upon completion of a bullying investigation resulting in findings that substantiate the allegation of bullying, the following responses will be considered based on the totality of the circumstances, including the severity of the behavior.

In unsubstantiated findings where school personnel believe there will be benefit in doing so, the following responses may be considered:

1. Individualized attention for both the victim of the behavior and the student that engaged in the bullying should consist of one or more of the following:

Bully

- a. Ongoing monitoring and contact with the bully that is both scheduled and unscheduled
- b. Scheduled meetings with the bully and parent to the degree deemed appropriate by school personnel
- c. An age-level appropriate consequence
- d. Acknowledgment and remorse expressed to the victim of the behavior but only upon consultation with the victim and victim's parent
- e. Participation in a Behavior Contract with identified objectives and consequences for violations
- f. Class or daily schedule modifications deemed beneficial and appropriate
- g. Notification to the bully's teachers of what has occurred for the purposes of any additional supervision or monitoring that might be necessary
- h. Adjustments in Supervision Plans that would positively impact the overall situation for monitoring the bully's future behavior
- i. Other specific requirements as deemed appropriate by the school

Victim

- a. Ongoing and scheduled meetings with the targeted student by appropriate school staff to assess how the student is adjusting and coping as well as to detect or acknowledge additional incidents of the behavior
 - b. Scheduled meetings with the targeted student and his parent to the degree deemed appropriate by school officials
 - c. Provide a peer to act as a mentor/support during social times, ensuring the victim is not left out of social interactions
 - d. Initiates schedule changes that might be beneficial but only with the permission of, and in consultation with, the student and parent
 - e. Notification to the student's teachers concerning what has occurred and any specific issues to consider within the classroom
 - f. Other specific strategies as deemed appropriate by the school
2. The school shall impose disciplinary actions on the bully, as outlined and consistent with the school's Student Code of Conduct and subsequent range of punishment.

Cafeteria Supervision Plan

2023-2024 School Year Lunch Period

Staff Assignments

Middle School Lunch Period: 11:00-11:30

Intermediate Lunch Period: 11:35- 12:05

Elementary Lunch Period: 12:10-12:40

Kindergarten Lunch Period: 12:30-1:15**

**Lunch Monitors: Margie Torres*, Paula James, Yvette Taylor,
Mr. Cooke**

**Lead Lunchroom supervisor*

*** Subject to change*

Duties & Responsibilities:

1. Monitor and address student behavioral issues
2. Limit the number of students taking bathroom breaks at the same time
3. Keep students from blocking walking lanes between tables
4. Remain visible and move between tables
5. Pay particular attention to students eating alone and engage them in conversation
6. Watch for students that may be excluding others from sitting at a specific table
7. Watch for sharing of food and when observed, take corrective action
8. Remind students to clean areas as they leave the lunchroom
9. Remember - a relaxed, orderly, and friendly cafeteria experience for everyone is a top priority

Emergency Reminders:

- The sheltering areas for students in the cafeteria are the library, or kitchen. For tornado drills students will line the hallway by the nurse's office.
- For intruder evacuation procedures exit through the back doors by the stage and enter the path at entry point #2. For fire evacuation procedures, have students exit (on the band-closet side of the stage) the doors and use the sidewalk to line up by the playground.
- The emergency backpack will be in the kitchen by Margie's table.
- Familiarize yourself with the evacuation and sheltering procedures

Brought to you by:



Bullying/Harassment Strategy Portfolio

1. Counselors (from the ADW) and Priest available to assist students and parents
2. Curricular offerings that reflect the teachings of Christ
3. Greeters at school entries each day to help kids feel welcome
4. Written discipline plans to minimize inappropriate behaviors
5. Anonymous reporting mailbox for students
6. Training on bullying behaviors for all staff
7. School Bullying Prevention/Response/Intervention/ Plan
8. Reporting procedures for all staff
9. Closed-Circuit Camera System to help monitor student behavior
10. Role Playing activities to help students with proper responses
11. Social Responsibility themes and discussions in classrooms
12. Resource books on bullying in Library Media Resource Center
13. Investigative checklist for use when reports are received
14. Handbooks with explanation and discipline procedures on bullying
15. Arch/Dioceses implemented Bullying and Harassment Policy
16. Classroom posters and reminders related to behavioral expectations/procedures/rules
17. Matrix to differentiate bullying from rudeness, meanness and conflict
18. Positive Behavior and classroom management techniques implemented in school
19. Bystander strategies taught to students
20. Internet safety and anti-cyberbullying curriculum integrated in school
21. Protecting God's Children curriculum taught to all age groups each year
22. Law enforcement involvement when bullying violates the law
23. Implementation of a Citizenship class for middle school students to highlight treating others with dignity, identifying bullying behaviors, being a bystander, dealing with conflict, and more

Bullying Report Form

Name(s) of Victim: _____

Name(s) of Bully: _____

Name(s) Witness: _____

Circle all that apply:	Shove/Pushed	Hit/Kick/Punched	
Threatened	Rumor Spreading	Stolen/Damaged Possessions	Teasing
Extortion	Name Calling	Cyber	Other: _____

Describe what occurred – including dates and times of the incident(s):

Attach Additional Narrative Pages If Needed

Circle any of the following items of evidence available:
Pictures Notes/Writings Recordings Medical Reports

The above information is true to the best of my knowledge, and I understand this report may be used as a part of a formal investigation.

Date: _____ Contact Information (i.e., email, phone #): _____

Printed Name: _____ Signature: _____

Bullying Investigation Checklist

Date: _____ Person Completing: _____

The following questions/tasks should be reviewed/completed during an investigation into allegations of all types of bullying. Some items may not be applicable based on individual event circumstances. Please check each item indicating it was completed, addressed or not applicable during the investigation phase.

PARENT NOTIFICATION	Yes	No	N/A
Notification at time of incident to parent of target/victim			
Notification at time of incident reported to parent of alleged perpetrator			
Follow-up contact with parent of target/victim by end of day or 24 hrs.			
Follow-up contact with parent of alleged perpetrator by end of day or 24 hrs			
Notification to parents of active bystander(s) of their child's involvement			
Additional contacts with parents of all parties involved <i>Please detail dates, times, and content of all conversations in discipline/investigative reports</i>			

LAW ENFORCEMENT INVOLVEMENT	Yes	No	N/A
Incident included a potential law violation and local police contacted			
Parents of student(s) notified of police involvement			

STATEMENTS AND INTERVIEWS	Yes	No	N/A
Written statement taken from victim/target student(s)			
Written statement taken from alleged perpetrator			
Written statement taken from bystander(s)			
Can the item be concealed under clothing?			
Adult witnesses present to interviews and/or statements taken <i>Please detail in investigative/discipline reports who was present for each interview/statement</i>			
Statements taken or interviews conducted of other staff members			
Parent of victim/target interviewed			
Parent of alleged perpetrator interviewed			
Witnesses other than students, staff or parents			

EVIDENCE - ELECTRONIC, WRITTEN, OR IMAGES	Yes	No	N/A
Pictures or video recordings related to incident(s) available and/or reviewed			
Writings or drawings related to incident(s) available and/or reviewed			
Parent/guardian has notes, recordings, or other documentation			
Physical injuries, bruises, or marks observed (Photograph if appropriate)			

OBSERVATIONS & KEY QUESTIONS	Yes	No	N/A
Evidence that actions of the alleged perpetrator were intentional			
Evidence, statements or observations supporting this was not a one-time occurrence			
Evidence or statements supporting the alleged perpetrator has some level of physical, emotional or psychological control over the victim/target			
Physical injuries, bruises, or marks observed (Photograph if appropriate)			
Actions of the alleged perpetrator violate the Student Code of Conduct			
Evidence/statements support an impact on learning for one or more students			
Evidence/statements support an impact on safety and/or climate affecting one or more students			

INTERVENTIONS DURING INVESTIGATION	Yes	No	N/A
Teachers of victim/target and/or alleged perpetrator notified			
Supervision plans or assignments adjusted			
Student daily schedule altered, adjusted or changed			
No Contact Agreement initiated between victim/target and perpetrator			
Scheduled periodic contacts with victim/target and/or alleged perpetrator			
Unscheduled contacts with victim/target and/or alleged perpetrator initiated			
Alleged perpetrator remains out of school during investigation			
Alternate transportation arrangements made for victim/target and/or perpetrator			

INVESTIGATION CONCLUSION	Yes	No	N/A
Elements for classification of bullying present			
Student(s) formally disciplined for Code of Conduct Violation			
District or state required reports prepared and submitted			
Parent/Guardian of Victim/Target notified of conclusion			
Parent/Guardian of alleged perpetrator notified of conclusion			
Long term intervention plan developed for Victim/Target and shared or prepared in conjunction with parent/guardian			
Long term intervention plan developed for perpetrator and shared or prepared in conjunction with parent/guardian			
Staff with a "Need to Know" made aware of conclusion			
Additional adjustments in school prevention/intervention/response strategies are made based on facts of investigated incident			
Does the student have unexplained items related to the incident?			

Notes:
