

Students

Bullying and Safe School Climate Plan

The Waterford Board of Education (the “Board”) is committed to creating and maintaining a safe educational environment free from bullying, teen dating violence, harassment and discrimination. In order to foster an atmosphere conducive to learning, the Board has developed the following Safe School Climate Plan, consistent with state law and Board Policy. This Plan represents a comprehensive approach to addressing bullying, cyberbullying and teen dating violence and sets forth the Board’s expectations for preventing, intervening, and responding to incidents of bullying and teen dating violence.

Bullying behavior and teen dating violence are strictly prohibited, and students who are determined to have engaged in such behavior are subject to disciplinary action, which may include suspension or expulsion from school. The district’s commitment to addressing bullying behavior and teen dating violence, however, involves a multi-faceted approach, which includes education and the promotion of a school atmosphere in which bullying will not be tolerated by students or school staff.

I. Prohibition Against Bullying and Retaliation

- A. The Board expressly prohibits any form of bullying behavior and teen dating violence on school grounds; at a school-sponsored or school-related activity, function or program whether on or off school grounds; at a school bus stop; on a school bus or other vehicle owned, leased or used by a local or regional board of education; or through the use of an electronic device or an electronic mobile device owned, leased or used by Board of Education.
- B. The Board also prohibits any form of bullying behavior outside of the school setting if such bullying (i) creates a hostile environment at school for the student against whom such bullying was directed, (ii) infringes on the rights of the student against whom such bullying was directed at school, or (iii) substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school;
- C. The Board further prohibits any form of teen dating violence outside of the school setting if such violence substantially disrupts the educational process;
- D. In addition to prohibiting student acts that constitute bullying, the Board also prohibits discrimination and/or retaliation against an individual who reports or assists in the investigation of an act of bullying.
- E. Students who engage in bullying behavior or teen dating violence in violation of Board Policy and the Safe School Climate Plan shall be subject to school discipline, up to and including expulsion, in accordance with the Board's policies on student discipline, suspension and expulsion, and consistent with state and federal law.

Students

Bullying and Safe School Climate Plan (continued)

II. Definition of Bullying

- A. **“Bullying”** means an act that is direct or indirect and severe, persistent or pervasive, which:
1. causes physical or emotional harm to an individual;
 2. places an individual in reasonable fear of physical or emotional harm ; or
 3. infringes on the rights or opportunities of an individual at school.
- B. Bullying shall include, but need not be limited to, a written, oral or electronic communication or physical act or gesture based on any actual or perceived differentiating characteristics, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, socioeconomic status, academic status, physical appearance, or mental, physical, developmental or sensory disability, or by association with an individual or group who has or is perceived to have one or more of such characteristics.

III. Other Definitions

- A. **“Cyberbullying”** means any act of bullying through the use of the Internet, interactive and digital technologies, cellular mobile telephone or other mobile electronic devices or any electronic communications.
- B. **“Electronic communication”** means any transfer of signs, signals, writing, images, sounds, data or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photo-electronic or photo-optical system;
- C. **“Emotional intelligence”** means the ability to (1) perceive, recognize, and understand emotions in oneself or others, (2) use emotions to facilitate cognitive activities, including, but not limited to, reasoning, problem solving and interpersonal communications, (3) understand and identify emotions, and (4) manage emotions in oneself and others.
- D. **“Hostile environment”** means a situation in which bullying among students is sufficiently severe or pervasive to alter the conditions of the school climate;

Students

Bullying and Safe School Climate Plan (continued)

- E. **“Mobile electronic device”** means any hand-held or other portable electronic equipment capable of providing data communication between two or more individuals, including, but not limited to, a text messaging device, a paging device, a personal digital assistant, a laptop computer, equipment that is capable of playing a video game or a digital video disk, or equipment on which digital images are taken or transmitted;
- F. **“Outside of the school setting”** means at a location, activity or program that is not school related, or through the use of an electronic device or a mobile electronic device that is not owned, leased or used by a local or regional board of education;
- G. **“Positive school climate”** means a school climate in which (1) the norms, values, expectations and beliefs that support feelings of social, emotional and physical safety are promoted, (2) students, parents, and guardians of students and school employees feel engaged and respected and work together to develop and contribute to a shared school vision, (3) educators model and nurture attitudes that emphasize the benefits and satisfaction gained from learning, and (4) each person feels comfortable contributing to the operation of the school and care of the physical environment of the school.
- H. **“Prevention and intervention strategy”** may include, but is not limited to,
1. implementation of a positive behavioral interventions and supports process or another evidence-based model approach for safe school climate or for the prevention of bullying identified by the Department of Education,
 2. school rules prohibiting bullying, harassment and intimidation and establishing appropriate consequences for those who engage in such acts,
 3. adequate adult supervision of outdoor areas, hallways, the lunchroom and other specific areas where bullying is likely to occur,
 4. inclusion of grade-appropriate bullying education and prevention curricula in kindergarten through high school,
 5. individual interventions with the bully, parents and school employees, and interventions with the bullied child, parents and school employees,
 6. school-wide training related to safe school climate,
 7. student peer training, education and support, and
 8. promotion of parent involvement in bullying prevention through individual or team participation in meetings, trainings and individual interventions, and
 9. culturally competent school-based curriculum focusing on social-emotional learning, self-awareness and self-regulation.

Students

Bullying and Safe School Climate Plan (continued)

- I. **“School climate”** means the quality and character of school life based on patterns of students’, parents’ and guardians’ and school employees’ experiences of school life, including but not limited to, norms, goals, values, interpersonal relationships, teaching and learning practices and organizational structures.
- J. **“School employee”** means
 - 1. a teacher, substitute teacher, school administrator, school superintendent, guidance counselor, psychologist, social worker, nurse, physician, school paraprofessional or coach employed by a local or regional board of education or working in a public elementary, middle or high school; or
 - 2. any other individual who, in the performance of the individual’s duties, has regular contact with students and who provides services to or on behalf of students enrolled in a public elementary, middle or high school, pursuant to a contract with the local or regional board of education.
- K. **“School-Sponsored Activity”** shall mean any activity conducted on or off school property (including school buses and other school-related vehicles) that is sponsored, recognized or authorized by the Board.
- L. **“Social and Emotional Learning”** means the process through which children and adults achieve emotional intelligence through the competencies of self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills and responsible decision-making.
- M. **“Teen dating violence”** means any act of physical, emotional or sexual abuse, including stalking, harassing and threatening, that occurs between two students who are currently in or who have recently been in a dating relationship.

IV. Leadership and Administrative Responsibilities

A. Safe School Climate Coordinator

For the school year commencing July 1, 2012, and each school year thereafter, the Superintendent shall appoint, from existing school district staff, a District Safe School Climate Coordinator (“Coordinator”). The Coordinator shall:

- 1. be responsible for implementing the district’s Safe School Climate Plan (“Plan”);
- 2. collaborate with Safe School Climate Specialists, the Board, and the Superintendent to prevent, identify and respond to bullying in district schools;
- 3. provide data and information, in collaboration with the Superintendent, to the Department of Education regarding bullying; and

Students

Bullying and Safe School Climate Plan (continued)

4. meet with Safe School Climate Specialists at least twice during the school year to discuss issues relating to bullying in the school district and to make recommendations concerning amendments to the district's Plan.

B. Safe School Climate Specialist

Each school year, the principal of each school (or principal's designee) shall serve as the Safe School Climate Specialist. The Safe School Climate Specialist shall investigate or supervise the investigation of reported acts of bullying, collect and maintain records of reports and investigations of bullying in the school and act as the primary school official responsible for preventing, identifying and responding to reports of bullying in the school.

V. Development and Review of Safe School Climate Plan

- A. For the school year commencing July 1, 2012 and each school year thereafter, the Principal of each school shall establish a committee or designate at least one existing committee ("Committee") in the school to be responsible for developing and fostering a safe school climate and addressing issues relating to bullying in the school. Such committee shall include at least one parent/guardian of a student enrolled in the school, as appointed by the school principal.

1. At least one parent/guardian of a student enrolled in the school, as appointed by the school principal;
2. School personnel, including, but not limited to, at least one teacher selected by the exclusive bargaining representative for certified employees;
3. Medical and mental health personnel assigned to such school; and
4. In the case of a committee for a high school, at least one student enrolled at such high school who is selected by the students of such school in a manner determined by the school principal.

B. The Committee shall:

1. receive copies of completed reports following bullying investigations;
2. identify and address patterns of bullying among students in the school;
3. implement the provisions of the school security and safety plan regarding the collection, evaluation and reporting of information relating to instances of disturbing or threatening behavior that may not meet the definition of bullying,
4. review and amend school policies relating to bullying;
5. review and make recommendations to the Coordinator regarding the Safe School Climate Plan based on issues and experiences specific to the school;
6. educate students, school employees and parents/guardians on issues relating to bullying;

Students

Bullying and Safe School Climate Plan (continued)

7. collaborate with the Coordinator in the collection of data regarding bullying; and
 8. perform any other duties as determined by the Principal that are related to the prevention, identification and response to school bullying.
- C. Any parent/guardian or student serving as a member of the Committee shall not participate in any activities which may compromise the confidentiality of any student, including, but not limited to, receiving copies of investigation reports, or identifying or addressing patterns of bullying among students in the school.
- D. The Board shall approve the Safe School Climate Plan developed pursuant to Board policy and submit such plan to the Department of Education. Not later than thirty (30) calendar days after approval by the Board, the Board shall make such plan available on the Board's and each individual school in the school district's website and ensure that the Safe School Climate Plan is included in the school district's publication of the rules, procedures and standards of conduct for schools and in all student handbooks.

VI. Procedures for Reporting and Investigating Complaints of Bullying

- A. Students and parents (or guardians of students) may file written reports of bullying. Written reports of bullying shall be reasonably specific as to the basis for the report, including the time and place of the alleged conduct, the number of incidents, the target of the suspected bullying, and the names of potential witnesses. Such reports may be filed with any building administrator and/or the Safe School Climate Specialist (i.e., building principal or designee), and all reports shall be forwarded to the Safe School Climate Specialist for review and actions consistent with this Plan.
- B. Students may make anonymous reports of bullying to any school employee. Should a student request anonymity when making a report, the Safe School Climate Specialist or designee shall meet with the student (if the student's identity is known) to review the request for anonymity and discuss the impact that maintaining the anonymity of the complainant may have on the investigation and on any possible remedial action. Anonymous complaints shall be reviewed and reasonable action will be taken to address the situation, to the extent such action may be taken that does not disclose the source of the complaint, and is consistent with the due process rights of the student(s) alleged to have committed acts of bullying. No disciplinary action shall be taken solely on the basis of an anonymous complaint.
- C. School employees who witness acts of bullying or receive reports of bullying shall orally notify the Safe School Climate Specialist or another school administrator if the Safe School Climate Specialist is unavailable, **not later than one (1) school day** after such school employee witnesses or receives a report of bullying. The school employee shall then file a **written report not later than two (2) school days** after making such oral report.

Students

Bullying and Safe School Climate Plan (continued)

- D. The Safe School Climate Specialist shall be responsible for reviewing any anonymous reports of bullying and shall investigate or supervise the investigation of all reports of bullying and ensure that such investigation is completed promptly after receipt of any written reports. The Safe School Climate Specialist shall also be responsible for promptly notifying the parents or guardians of the student alleged to have committed an act or acts of bullying, and the parents or guardians of the student against whom such alleged act or acts were directed, that an investigation has commenced. In order to allow the district to adequately investigate complaints filed by a student or parent/guardian, the parent of the student suspected of being bullied should be asked to provide consent to permit the release of that student's name in connection with the investigation process, unless the student and/or parent has requested anonymity.
- E. In investigating reports of bullying, the Safe School Climate Specialist or designee will consider all available information known, including the nature of the allegations and the ages of the students involved. The Safe School Climate Specialist will interview witnesses, as necessary, reminding the alleged perpetrator and other parties that retaliation is strictly prohibited and will result in disciplinary action.

VII. Responding to Verified Acts of Bullying

- A. Following investigation, if acts of bullying are verified, the Safe School Climate Specialist or designee shall notify the parents or guardians of the students against whom such acts were directed as well as the parents or guardians of the students who commit such acts of bullying of the finding **not later than forty-eight hours (48)** after the investigation is completed. This notification shall include a description of the school's response to the acts of bullying; the results of such investigation; and verbally or by electronic mail, if such parents' or guardians' electronic mail addresses are known, that such parents or guardians may refer to the plain language explanation of the rights and remedies available under Conn. Gen. Stat. Sections 10-4a and 10-4b once such explanation has been provided to the Board by the Connecticut Social and Emotional Learning and School Climate Advisory Collaborative and published on the Internet website of the Board. In providing such notification, however, Waterford Public Schools will take care to respect the statutory privacy rights of other students, including the perpetrator of such bullying. The specific disciplinary consequences imposed on the perpetrator, or personally identifiable information about a student other than the parent/guardian's own child, may not be disclosed except as provided by law.
- B. In any instance in which bullying is verified, the Safe School Climate Specialist or designee shall also invite the parents or guardians of the student against whom such act was directed to a meeting to communicate the measures being taken by the school to ensure the safety of the student/victim and policies and procedures in place to prevent further acts of bullying. The Safe School Climate Specialist or designee shall also invite the parents or guardians of a student who commits any verified act of bullying to a meeting, separate and distinct from the previously described meeting, to

Regulation 5020(h)

Students

Bullying and Safe School Climate Plan (continued)

discuss specific interventions undertaken by the school to prevent further acts of bullying. The invitation may be made simultaneous with the notification described above in Section VII.A.

- C. A specific written intervention plan shall be developed to address repeated incidents of bullying against a single individual or recurrently perpetrated bullying incidents by the same individual. The written intervention plan may include counseling, discipline and other appropriate remedial actions as determined by the Safe School Climate Specialist or designee, and may also incorporate a student safety support plan, as appropriate.
- D. A specific written intervention plan shall be developed to address repeated incidents of bullying against a single individual or recurrently perpetrated bullying incidents by the same individual. The written intervention plan may include counseling, discipline and other appropriate remedial actions as determined by the Safe School Climate Specialist or designee, and may also incorporate a student safety support plan, as appropriate.

- E. Notice to Law Enforcement

If the Principal of a school (or designee) reasonably believes that any act of bullying constitutes a criminal offense, he/she shall notify appropriate law enforcement. Notice shall be consistent with the Board's obligations under state and federal law and Board policy regarding the disclosure of personally identifiable student information. In making this determination, the Principal or designee, may consult with the school resource office, if any, and other individuals the Principal or designee deems appropriate.

- F. If a bullying complaint raises concern about discrimination or harassment on the basis of a legally protected classification (such as race, religion, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, age or disability), the Safe School Climate Specialist or designee shall also coordinate any investigation with other appropriate personnel within the district as appropriate (e.g. Title IX Coordinator, Section 504 Coordinator etc.)

VIII. Teen Dating Violence

- A. The school district strictly prohibits, and takes very seriously, any instances of teen dating violence, as defined above. The school recognizes that teen dating violence may take many different forms and may also be considered bullying and/or sexual harassment.
- B. Students and parents or guardians may bring verbal or written complaints regarding teen dating violence to any building administrator. The building administrator shall review and address the complaint, which may include referral of the complaint to the Safe School Climate Specialist and/or Title IX Coordinator.

Students

Bullying and Safe School Climate Plan (continued)

- C. Prevention and intervention strategies concerning teen dating violence shall be implemented in accordance with Section X below. Discipline, up to and including expulsion, may be imposed against the perpetrator of teen dating violence, whether consistent with federal and state law.

IX. Documentation and Maintenance of Log

- A. Each school shall maintain written complaints of bullying, along with supporting documentation received and/or created as a result of bullying investigations, consistent with the Board's obligations under state and federal law. Any educational record containing personally identifiable student information pertaining to an individual student shall be maintained in a confidential manner, and shall not be disclosed to third parties without prior written consent of a parent, guardian or eligible student, except as permitted under Board policy and state and federal law.
- B. The Principal of each school shall maintain a list of the number of verified acts of bullying in the school and this list shall be available for public inspection upon request. Consistent with district obligations under state and federal law regarding student privacy, the log shall not contain any personally identifiable student information or any information that alone or in combination would allow a reasonable person in the school community to identify the students involved. Accordingly, the log should be limited to basic information such as the number of verified acts, name of school and/or grade level and relevant date. Given that any determination of bullying involves repeated acts, each investigation that results in a verified act of bullying for that school year shall be tallied as one verified act of bullying unless the specific actions that are the subject of each report involve separate and distinct acts of bullying. The list shall be limited to the number of verified acts of bullying in each school and shall not set out the particulars of each verified act, including, but not limited to any personally identifiable student information, which is confidential information by law.
- C. The Principal of each school shall report the number of verified acts of bullying in the school annually to the Department of Education in such manner as prescribed by the Commissioner of Education.

X. Other Prevention and Intervention Strategies

- A. Bullying behavior and teen dating violence can take many forms and can vary dramatically in the nature of the offense and the impact the behavior may have on the victim and other students. Accordingly, there is no one prescribed response to verified acts of bullying or teen dating violence. While conduct that rises to the level of "bullying" or "teen dating violence", as defined above, will generally warrant disciplinary action against the perpetrator of such bullying or teen dating violence, whether and to what extent to impose disciplinary action (e.g., detention, in-school suspension, suspension or expulsion) is a matter for the professional discretion of the building principal (or responsible program administrator or designee). No disciplinary action may be taken solely on the basis of an anonymous complaint of bullying. As discussed below, schools may also consider appropriate alternatives to

Students

Bullying and Safe School Climate Plan (continued)

traditional disciplinary sanctions, including age-appropriate consequences and other restorative or remedial interventions.

- B. A specific written intervention plan shall be developed to address repeated incidents of bullying against a single individual or recurrently perpetrated bullying incidents by the same individual. This plan may include safety provisions, as described above, for students against whom acts of bullying have been verified and may include other interventions such as counseling, discipline, and other appropriate remedial actions as determined by the responsible administrator.
- C. The following sets forth possible interventions which may also be utilized to enforce the Board's prohibition against bullying and teen dating violence:

- 1. Non-disciplinary interventions

When verified acts of bullying are identified early and/or when such verified acts of bullying do not reasonably require a disciplinary response, students may be counseled as to the definition of bullying, its prohibition, and their duty to avoid any conduct that could be considered bullying.

If a complaint arises out of conflict between students or groups of students, peer mediation may be considered. Special care, however, is warranted in referring such cases to peer mediation. A power imbalance may make the process intimidating for the victim and therefore inappropriate. In such cases, the victim should be given additional support. Alternatively, peer mediation may be deemed inappropriate to address the concern.

When an act or acts of teen dating violence are identified, the students involved may be counseled as to the seriousness of the conduct, the prohibition of teen dating violence, and their duty to avoid any such conduct. Students may also be subject to other forms of restorative discipline or remedial actions, appropriate to the age of the students and nature of the behavior.

- 2. Disciplinary interventions

When acts of bullying are verified or teen dating violence occurs and a disciplinary response is warranted, students are subject to the full range of disciplinary consequences. Anonymous complaints of bullying, however, shall not be the basis for disciplinary action.

In-school suspension and suspension may be imposed only after informing the accused perpetrator of the reasons for the proposed suspension and giving him/her an opportunity to explain the situation, in accordance with the Board's Student Discipline policy.

Students

Bullying and Safe School Climate Plan (continued)

Expulsion may be imposed only after a hearing before the Board, a committee of the Board or an impartial hearing officer designated by the Board in accordance with the Board's Student Discipline policy. This consequence shall normally be reserved for serious incidents of bullying and teen dating violence and/or when past interventions have not been successful in eliminating bullying behavior.

3. Interventions for bullied students and victims of teen dating violence

The building principal (or other responsible program administrator) or designee shall intervene in order to address multiple incidents of bullying or teen dating violence against a single individual. Intervention strategies for a bullied student or victim of teen dating violence may include the following:

- a. Referral to a school counselor; psychologist or other appropriate social or mental health service;
- b. Increased supervision and monitoring of student to observe and intervene in bullying situations or instances of teen dating violence;
- c. Encouragement of student to seek help when victimized or witnessing victimization;
- d. Peer mediation where appropriate;
- e. Student Safety Support plan;
- f. Restitution and/or restorative interventions; and
- g. Periodic follow-up by the Safe School Climate Specialist and/or Title IX Coordinator with the bullied student or victim of teen dating violence.

4. General Prevention and Intervention Strategies

In addition to the prompt investigation of complaints of bullying and direct intervention when acts of bullying are verified, other district actions may ameliorate potential problems with bullying in school or at school-sponsored activities. Additional district actions may also ameliorate potential problems with teen dating violence. While no specific action is required, and school needs for specific prevention and intervention strategies may vary from time to time, the following list of potential prevention and intervention strategies shall serve as a resource for administrators, teachers and other professional

Students

Bullying and Safe School Climate Plan (continued)

employees in each school. Such prevention and intervention strategies may include, but are not limited to:

- a. School rules prohibiting bullying, teen dating violence, harassment and intimidation and establishing appropriate consequences for those who engage in such acts;
- b. Adequate adult supervision of outdoor areas, hallways, the lunchroom and other specific areas where bullying or teen dating violence are likely to occur;
- c. Inclusion of grade-appropriate bullying and teen dating violence education and prevention curricula, which may include instruction regarding building safe and positive school communities including developing healthy relationships and preventing dating violence as deemed appropriate for older students;
- d. Individual interventions with the perpetrator, parents and school employees, and interventions with the bullied student, parents and school employees;
- e. School-wide training related to safe school climate, which training may include Title IX/sex discrimination/sexual harassment prevention training, Section 504/ADA training, cultural diversity/multicultural education or other training in federal and state civil rights legislation or other topics relevant to safe school climate;
- f. Student peer training, education and support;
- g. Promotion of parent involvement in bullying prevention through individual or team participation in meetings, trainings and individual interventions;
- h. Implementation of a positive behavioral interventions and supports process or another evidence-based model approach for safe school climate or for the prevention of bullying and teen dating violence, including any such program identified by the Department of Education;
- i. Respectful responses to bullying and teen dating violence concerns raised by students, parents or staff;

Students

Bullying and Safe School Climate Plan (continued)

- j. Planned professional development programs addressing prevention and intervention strategies, which training may include school violence prevention, conflict resolution and prevention of bullying and teen dating violence, with a focus in evidence based practices concerning same;
 - k. Use of peers to help ameliorate the plight of victims and include them in group activities;
 - l. Avoidance of sex-role stereotyping;
 - m. Continuing awareness and involvement on the part of staff and parents with regards to prevention and intervention strategies;
 - n. Modeling by teachers of positive, respectful, and supportive behavior toward students;
 - o. Creating a school atmosphere of team spirit and collaboration that promotes appropriate social behavior by students in support of others;
 - p. Employing classroom strategies that instruct students how to work together in a collaborative and supportive atmosphere; and
 - q. Culturally competent school-based curriculum focusing on social-emotional learning, self-awareness and self-regulation.
- D. In addition to prevention and intervention strategies, administrators, teachers and other professional employees may find opportunities to educate students about bullying and help eliminate bullying behavior through class discussions, counseling, and reinforcement of socially-appropriate behavior. Administrators, teachers and other professional employees should intervene promptly whenever they observe student conduct that has the purpose or effect of ridiculing, harassing, humiliating or intimidating another student, even if such conduct does not meet the formal definition of “bullying.”
- E. Funding for the school-based bullying intervention and school climate improvement strategy may originate from public, private, federal or philanthropic sources.

XI. Annual Notice and Training

- A. Students, and parents or guardians of students shall be notified annually of the process by which students may make reports of bullying.

Students

Bullying and Safe School Climate Plan (continued)

- B. The Board shall provide for the inclusion of language in student codes of conduct concerning bullying.
- C. At the beginning of each school year, each school shall provide all school employees with a written or electronic copy of the school district's safe school climate plan and require that all school employees annually complete training on the identification, prevention and response to bullying as required by law.
- D. As required by state law, the Board, after consultation with the Department of Education and the Social and Emotional Learning and School Climate Advisory Collaborative, shall also provide on its website training materials to school administrators regarding the prevention of and intervention in discrimination against and targeted harassment of students based on such students' (1) actual or perceived differentiating characteristics, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, socioeconomic status, academic status, physical appearance or mental, physical, developmental or sensory disability, or (2) association with individuals or groups who have or are perceived to have one or more of such characteristics.
- E. Any person appointed by the district to serve as the district safe school climate coordinator shall complete mental health and first aid training offered by the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

XII. School Climate Assessments

Biennially, the Board shall require each school in the district to complete an assessment using the school climate assessment instruments, including surveys, approved and disseminated by the Department of Education. The Board shall collect the school climate assessments for each school in the district and submit such assessments to the Connecticut State Department of Education.

Legal References:

- Public Act 19-166
- Public Act 21-95
- Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-222d
- Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-222g
- Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-222h
- Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-222j
- Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-222k
- Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-222l

Students

Bullying and Safe School Climate Plan (continued)

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-222q

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-222r

Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 10-233a through 10-233f

Connecticut State Department of Education Circular Letter C-8, Series 2008-2009
(March 16, 2009)

Connecticut State Department of Education Circular Letter C-3, Series 2011-2012
(September 12, 2011)

Connecticut State Department of Education Circular Letter C-2, Series 2014-2015
(July 14, 2014)

Connecticut State Department of Education Circular Letter C-1, Series 2018-2019
(July 12, 2018)

Connecticut State Department of Education Circular Letter C-1, Series 2019-2020
(July 16, 2019)

Regulation approved: October 16, 2003
First reading: August 27, 2008
Regulation revised: September 18, 2008
Regulation revised: December 15, 2011
Regulation revised: August 27, 2015
Regulation revised: November 15, 2016
Regulation revised: February 27, 2020
Regulation revised: October 28, 2021

WATERFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Waterford, Connecticut

Indicate if there are witnesses who can provide more information regarding your complaint. If the witnesses are not school district staff or students, please provide contact information.

Name	Address	Telephone Number

Have there been previous incidents? Yes No

If "Yes", please describe the behavior of concern or violence that occurred, the approximate dates and the location:

Were these incidents reported to school personnel? Yes No

If "Yes", to whom was it reported? _____

Was the report verbal or written? _____

Indicate your opinion on how this problem might be resolved. Be as specific as possible.

I certify that the above information and events are accurately depicted to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Complainant

Date Submitted

Received By

Date Received

For Staff Use Only

Has reporter requested anonymity? Yes No

Does the school have parent/guardian consent to disclose the student's name in connection with the investigation? Yes No

Administrative Investigation Notes (use separate sheet if necessary):

Bullying Verified? Yes No

Remedial Action(s) Taken: _____

If Bullying Verified, Has Notification Been Made to Parents of Students Involved?

Parents' Names: _____ Date Notified: _____
Parents' Names: _____ Date Notified: _____
Parents' Names: _____ Date Notified: _____

If Bullying Verified, Has Invitation to Meetings Been Held with Parents of Students?

Parents' Names: _____ Date Sent: _____
Parents' Names: _____ Date Sent: _____
Parents' Names: _____ Date Sent: _____

Date(s) of Meetings: _____

If Bullying Verified, Has School Developed Student Safety Support/Intervention Plan? Yes No

(Attach bullying complaint, witness statements. If bullying is verified, attach:1) notification to parents of students involved that includes a description of the school's response to the acts of bullying, the results of the investigation, and via e-mail if e-mail addresses are known, a statement that the parents may refer to the plain language explanation of rights and remedies available under Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 10-4a and 10-4b once such explanation has been provided to the Board by the Connecticut Social and Emotional Learning and School Climate Advisory Collaborative and published on the District's Website;2) Invitations to Parent Meetings; and 3) Records of Parent Meetings.)

WATERFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REPORT OF BULLYING / CONSENT TO RELEASE STUDENT INFORMATION

Date: _____

Name of Student: _____

School: _____

To Parent/Guardian:

A complaint of bullying has been filed on behalf of your child alleging that he/she has been the victim of bullying. In order to facilitate a prompt and thorough investigation of the complaint, Waterford Public Schools may wish to disclose the fact that this complaint has been filed in connection with investigation.

(Please check one):

I hereby give permission for Waterford Public Schools to disclose the fact that a complaint concerning my child has been filed as part of its investigation of that complaint.

I do NOT give permission for Waterford Public Schools to disclose the fact that a complaint concerning my child has been filed as part of its investigation of that complaint.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

Name (Please print)

WATERFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
REPORT OF TEEN DATING VIOLENCE / CONSENT TO RELEASE STUDENT INFORMATION

Date: _____

Name of Student: _____

School: _____

To Parent/Guardian:

A report of teen dating violence has been made on behalf of your child alleging that he/she has been the victim of teen dating violence. In order to facilitate a prompt and thorough review of the report, the Waterford Public Schools may wish to disclose the fact that this complaint has been filed in connection with its review.

(Please check one):

I hereby give permission for Waterford Public Schools to disclose the fact that a complaint concerning my child has been filed as part of its review of that complaint.

I do NOT give permission for Waterford Public Schools to disclose the fact that a complaint concerning my child has been filed as part of its review of the complaint.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

Name (Please print)

WATERFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BULLYING INTERVENTION PLAN

Board of Education regulation 5131.911(g), VII., D. states, "A specific written intervention plan shall be developed to address repeated incidents of bullying against a single individual or recurrently perpetrated bullying incidents by the same individual. The written intervention plan may include counseling, discipline and other appropriate remedial actions as determined by the Safe School Climate Specialist or designee, and may also incorporate a student safety support plan, as appropriate."

ACTION PLAN FOR THE [School Year] SCHOOL YEAR

Student Name: _____

Date of Action Plan: _____

If this plan is not followed, the Assistant Superintendent should be contacted as the Safe School Climate Specialist at 860-444-5854

This plan has been discussed with me and I agree with the plan of action described above.

Parent/Guardian

Date

Principal

Date