



CLARENDON CISD

PLAN FOR THE PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION OF BULLYING

Clarendon CISD is committed to working together with parents to help promote the health and well being of our students. This commitment is an integral part of our comprehensive efforts to promote learning and to prevent and eliminate all forms of bullying. The District seeks parent and community involvement and engagement in order to provide a safe and orderly learning environment that encourages student success in the pursuit of education.

Clarendon CISD expects that all members of the school community will treat each other in a civil manner and with respect for differences. Consistent with state and federal laws and the policies of Clarendon CISD, no person shall be discriminated against on account of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, or sexual orientation.

What is bullying?

Bullying occurs when a student or group of students repeatedly engages in written or verbal expression, expression through electronic methods, or physical conduct against another student on school property, at a school-related or sponsored activity, or in a district operated vehicle, and that:

*Has the effect or will have the effect of physically harming a student, damaging a student's property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to the student or of damage to the student's property;

or

*Is sufficiently severe, persistent, and pervasive enough that the action or threat creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student.

This conduct is considered bullying if:

*It exploits an imbalance of power between the student perpetrator and the student victim through written or verbal expression or physical conduct; and

*Interferes with a student's education or substantially disrupts the operation of a school.

Bullying is prohibited by the Clarendon Independent School District (Policies FFH and FFI LEGAL) and may include, but is not restricted to:

- *Hazing
- *Confinement
- *Assault
- *Ostracism

- *Teasing
- *Taunting
- *Name-calling
- *Destruction of property

- *Threats
- *Demands for money
- *Rumor-spreading
- *Theft of valued possessions

What Bullying Is Not

Bullying does not include normal peer conflict such as one-on-one fighting of siblings or peers with competing claims. Nor does it include acts of impulsive aggression, such as aggression that is a spontaneous, indiscriminate striking out with no intended target.

What are other areas of bullying?

Cyberbullying- willful and repeated harm inflicted through the use of computers, cell phones, and other electronic devices.

Retaliation- any form of intimidation, reprisal, or harassment directed against a student who reports bullying, provides information during an investigation of bullying, or witnesses or has reliable information about bullying.

What are warning signs of bullying?

Possible warning signs that a child could be experiencing bullying:

- *Returns home with torn, damaged, or missing pieces of clothing, books, or other belongings
- *Has unexplained cuts, bruises, and scratches
- *Seems afraid of going to school, walking to or from school, riding the school bus
- *Does not want to take part in school activities, clubs, etc.
- *Takes a long or illogical route when walking to or from school
- *Has lost interest in school work or grades suddenly fall
- *Appears sad, moody, teary, or depressed when returning from school
- *Complains repeatedly of headaches, stomach aches, or other physical ailments
- *Has trouble sleeping or has frequent bad dreams
- *Experiences a loss of appetite
- *Appears anxious and suffers from low self-esteem

Roles and Responsibilities to Prevent and Intervene in Bullying

It is the responsibility of every Clarendon CISD employee, student, and parent to recognize acts of bullying and retaliation, and to take every action necessary to ensure that the applicable policies and procedures of Clarendon CISD are implemented.

Administrators—Inform staff and students as where to obtain information regarding student safety, provide training on harassment, bullying, and cyberbullying; conduct formal investigations regarding claims of harassment, bullying, and cyberbullying; and coordinate efforts with district level team members regarding campus specific needs.

Counselors—provide individual or group counseling opportunities to distribute information regarding student safety; advise campus administration of any acts of harassment, bullying, cyberbullying, etc. and provide information to parents regarding student safety issues. Set up counseling opportunities for the victim, witnesses or perpetrator of the bullying incidents and also inform them and their parents of counseling locations outside the school and in the local communities if those services are needed.

Teachers—through classroom instruction, take opportunities to discuss, disseminate, and distribute information regarding student safety.

Parents—cooperate with campus personnel to address student safety issues. Provide regular communication with their children to determine student's well-being, as well as addressing their responsibility to report possible bullying incidents. Participate in proactive discussions and activities working on anti-bullying and character development with their children.

How will CCISD staff become knowledgeable and gain an understanding of bullying?

Clarendon CISD staff will receive training in order to address the critical issues of bullying. Staff will gain an understanding of legal and local CCISD policies associated with bullying and cyberbullying. Training will include bullying prevention and intervention strategies for staff and to share with students. This training may be provided through campus staff, district staff, or outside agencies as appropriate at the discretion of the campus administration.

The Clarendon CISD Freedom From Bullying Policy will be distributed annually in the employee and student handbooks, posted on the District website, and is available at each campus and the District administrative offices.

Roles and Responsibilities of Students

Who do you go to when you see bullying taking place?

Students who are bullied usually need help from an adult. The student who is doing the bullying probably does, too. As a witness or by-stander, it is your responsibility to report the incident to an adult. Reporting that someone is getting bullied or hurt in some other way is NOT “tattling.” Adults at school can help.

Individuals that bullying can be reported to include:

- *Principal
- *Teachers
- *School Counselor
- *Cafeteria Worker
- *School Nurse
- *Bus Driver
- *Other adult you feel comfortable telling.
- *If you need help, take a friend along.

All CCISD employees are required to report student complaints of bullying to the campus principal or designee.

What can students do if they see bullying taking place at school?

As a student, think about how you might feel if the bullying was happening to you. Students can lend a hand to someone being bullied.

Actions a student can take include:

- *TELL AN ADULT!
- *Offer a way for the person being bullied to leave the scene.
- *Kids who bully may think they are being funny or “cool;” if you feel safe to do so, tell the person to STOP the bullying behavior.
- *Do not bully back; it will not help the situation to use mean names or actions, and it could make the situation worse; do not put yourself in an unsafe situation.
- *Be a friend by taking the time to get to know the person.
- *Tell the student to talk to someone about what happened; offer to go along as support.
- * Encourage others to help prevent and intervene in bullying.

What if the bullying does not happen at school?

*Report the bullying to an adult nearby, such as a parent, youth group leader, or sports coach.

*No matter where the bullying happens, you should talk to your parents about bullying that you see or know about. Seek ideas about how to help.

Everyone deserves to feel safe and welcome at school and in the community.

What are the bullying reporting procedures?

If a student believes that he or she has experienced bullying or when a district employee, student, or parent has witnessed a possible bullying incident, the campus principal should be notified. The principal may be contacted by making a report in the campus office or by completing the Bullying Report Form on www.clarendonisd.net. The district employee, student, or parent making the report will be asked to fill out an "Incident Report Form" as soon as possible so that assistance and intervention can be obtained. The CCISD campus administration will investigate any allegations of bullying or other related misconduct. The flow chart provided by the Texas School Safety Center will be used to help determine if reported misconduct rises to the level of bullying according to HB 1942. The campus principal or designee will complete an "Investigation Report".

What are the consequences when bullying is found to have taken place?

If the results of an investigation indicate that bullying has occurred, the campus administration will take appropriate disciplinary action. Disciplinary or other action may be taken even if the conduct did not rise to the level of bullying. Consequences of bullying behavior may include removal from the classroom.

If a situation of bullying involves physical contact by the perpetrator, and the victim of the bullying uses reasonable self-defense, the actions will be taken into consideration by administrators during the investigation phase to determine appropriate disciplinary consequences.

A student with disabilities will be given the same consideration during an investigation phase and when discipline consequences of the bullying are administered.

Parent Notification

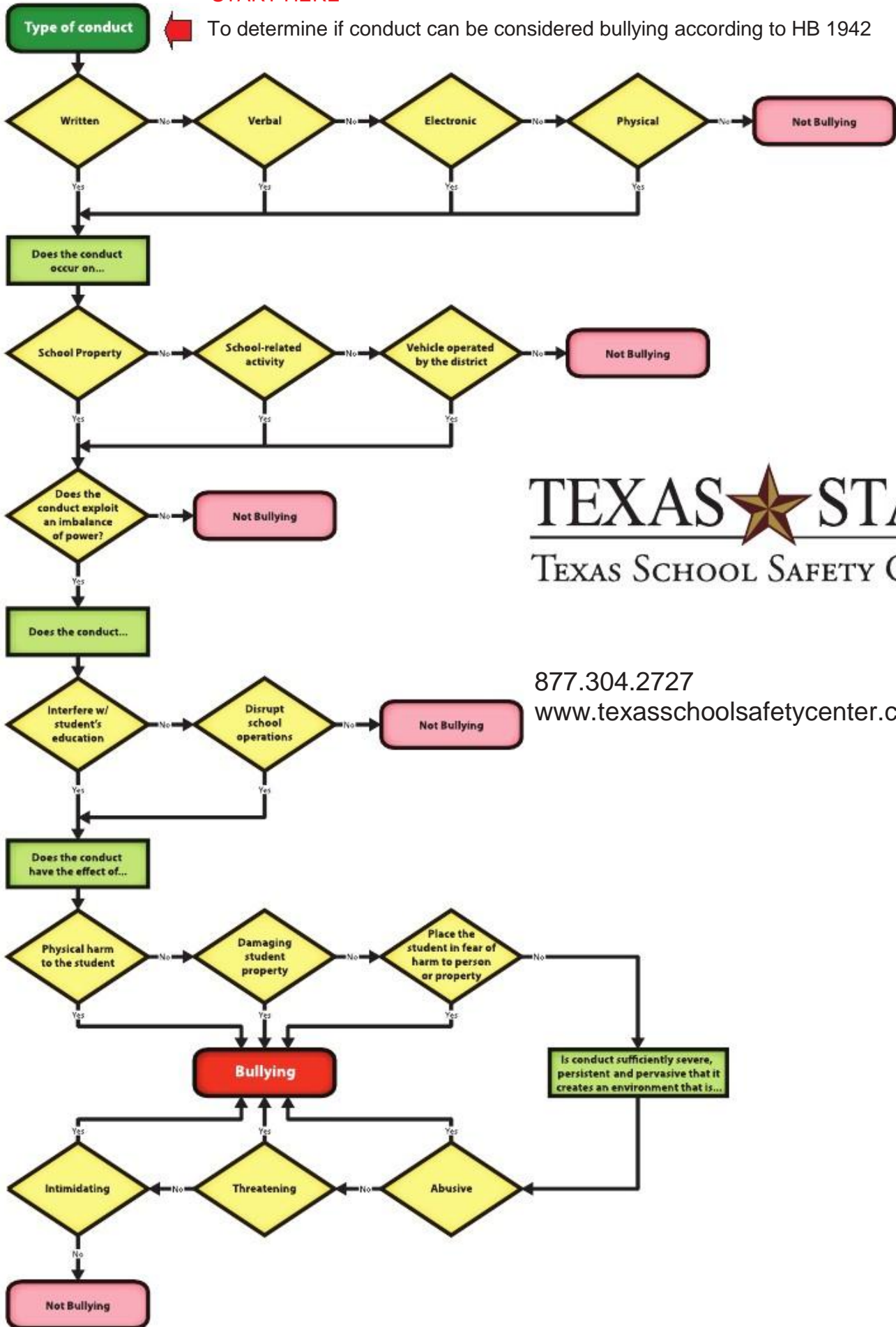
When a case of bullying has been verified by the campus principal or designee, a written "Notice of Bullying Incident Form" will be sent to the parents of the victim, the student(s) who engaged in the bullying, and to the witnesses noted in the bullying incident.

A student or parent who is dissatisfied with the outcome of an investigation may appeal through policy FNG (LOCAL). The Clarendon CCISD Freedom from Bullying Policy online may be found at www.clarendonisd.net. Follow the District Information tab to Board Policies and Handbooks.

Additional Resource

For up-to-date information on the prevention of bullying, please visit the website: www.stopbullying.gov.

START HERE



TEXAS STATE
TEXAS SCHOOL SAFETY CENTER

877.304.2727
www.texaschoolsafetycenter.com