

**Series 5000
Students**

BULLYING AND SAFE SCHOOL CLIMATE PLAN

The Interdistrict School for Arts and Communication (ISAAC) is committed to creating and maintaining an educational environment that is physically, emotionally and intellectually safe and thus free from bullying, teen dating violence, harassment and discrimination. In accordance with state law and ISAAC's Safe School Climate Plan, ISAAC expressly prohibits any form of bullying behavior 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 ISAAC; or through the use of an electronic device or an electronic mobile device owned, leased or used by ISAAC.

ISAAC 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. Discrimination and/or retaliation against an individual who reports or assists in the investigation of an act of bullying is likewise prohibited.

Students who engage in bullying behavior or teen dating violence shall be subject to school discipline, up to and including expulsion, in accordance with ISAAC's policies on student discipline, suspension and expulsion, and consistent with state and federal law.

For purposes of this policy, "**Bullying**" means the repeated use by one or more students of a written, oral or electronic communication, such as cyberbullying, directed at or referring to another student attending ISAAC, or a physical act or gesture by one or more students repeatedly directed at another student ISAAC, that:

- (1) causes physical or emotional harm to such student or damage to such student's property;
- (2) places such student in reasonable fear of harm to himself or herself, or of damage to his or her property;
- (3) creates a hostile environment at school for such student;
- (4) infringes on the rights of such student at school; or
- (5) substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

Bullying shall include, but not be limited to, a written, verbal 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.

For purposes of this policy, "**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.

For purposes of this policy, "**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.

Consistent with the requirements under state law, ISAAC authorizes the Executive Director or his/her designee(s), along with the Safe School Climate Coordinator, to be responsible for developing and implementing a Safe School Climate Plan in furtherance of this policy. As provided by state law, such Safe School Climate Plan shall include, but not be limited to, provisions which:

- (1) Enable students to anonymously report acts of bullying to school employees and require students and the parents or guardians of students to be notified at the beginning of each school year of the process by which students may make such reports;
- (2) enable the parents or guardians of students to file written reports of suspected bullying;
- (3) require school employees who witness acts of bullying or receive reports of bullying to orally notify the safe school climate specialist, or another school administrator if the safe school climate specialist is unavailable, not later than one school day after such school employee witnesses or receives a report of bullying, and to file a written report not later than two school days after making such oral report;
- (4) require the safe school climate specialist to investigate or supervise the investigation of all reports of bullying and ensure that such investigation is completed promptly after receipt of any written reports made under this section and that 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 receive prompt notice that such investigation has commenced;
- (5) require the safe school climate specialist to review any anonymous reports, except that no disciplinary action shall be taken solely on the basis of an anonymous report;
- (6) include a prevention and intervention strategy for school employees to deal with bullying and teen dating violence;
- (7) provide for the inclusion of language in student codes of conduct concerning bullying;

- (8) require the school to notify the parents or guardians of students who commit any verified acts of bullying and the parents or guardians of students against whom such acts were directed not later than forty-eight hours after the completion of the investigation described in subdivision (4), above;
- (9) require each school to invite the parents or guardians of a student against whom such act was directed to a meeting to communicate to such parents or guardians the measures being taken by the school to ensure the safety of the student against whom such act was directed and policies and procedures in place to prevent further acts of bullying;
- (10) require each school to invite the parents or guardians of a student who commits any verified act of bullying to a meeting, separate and distinct from the meeting required in subdivision (9) above, to discuss specific interventions undertaken by the school to prevent further acts of bullying;
- (11) establish a procedure for the school to document and maintain records relating to reports and investigations of bullying in such school and to maintain a list of the number of verified acts of bullying in the school and make such list available for public inspection, and annually report such number to the Department of Education and in such manner as prescribed by the Commissioner of Education;
- (12) direct the development of case-by-case interventions for addressing repeated incidents of bullying against a single individual or recurrently perpetrated bullying incidents by the same individual that may include both counseling and discipline;
- (13) prohibit discrimination and retaliation against an individual who reports or assists in the investigation of an act of bullying;
- (14) direct the development of student safety support plans for students against whom an act of bullying was directed that address safety measures the school will take to protect such students against further acts of bullying;
- (15) require the principal of a school, or the principal's designee, to notify the appropriate local law enforcement agency when such principal, or the principal's designee, believes that any acts of bullying constitute criminal conduct;
- (16) prohibit bullying (A) 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 ISAAC, or through the use of an electronic device or an electronic mobile device owned, leased or used by ISAAC, and (B) outside of the school setting if such bullying (i) creates a hostile environment at school for the student against whom such bullying was directed, or (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 the school;

(17) require, at the beginning of each school year, the school to provide all school employees with a written or electronic copy of ISAAC's safe school climate plan; and

(18) require that all school employees annually complete the training described in Conn. Gen. Stat. § §10-220a or 10-222j.

The notification required pursuant to subdivision (8) (above) and the invitation required pursuant to subdivisions (9) and (10) (above) shall include a description of the response of school employees to such acts and any consequences that may result from the commission of further acts of bullying. Any information provided under this policy or accompanying Safe School Climate Plan shall be provided in accordance with the confidentiality restrictions imposed under the Family Educational Rights Privacy Act ("FERPA") and ISAAC 's Confidentiality and Access to Student Information policy and regulations.

ISAAC shall submit its Safe School Climate Plan to the State Department of Education for review and approval. Not later than thirty (30) calendar days after approval by the Department, ISAAC shall make such plan available on the **ISAAC** website and ensure that the Safe School Climate Plan is included in ISAAC's publication of the rules, procedures and standards of conduct for schools and in all student handbooks.

Legal References:

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-145a

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-145o

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-220a

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

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-66dd

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

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SAFE SCHOOL CLIMATE PLAN

ISAAC is committed to creating and maintaining a physically, emotionally, and intellectually safe educational environment free from bullying, teen dating violence, harassment and discrimination. In order to foster an atmosphere conducive to learning, ISAAC has developed the following Safe School Climate Plan, consistent with state law and ISAAC Policy. This Plan represents a comprehensive approach to addressing bullying, cyberbullying and teen dating violence and sets forth ISAAC's expectations for creating a positive school climate and thus 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. ISAAC's commitment to addressing bullying behavior, and teen dating violence, however, involves a multi-faceted approach, which includes education and the promotion of a positive school climate in which bullying will not be tolerated by students or school staff.

I. Prohibition Against Bullying, Teen Dating Violence and Retaliation

- A. ISAAC expressly prohibits any form of bullying behavior or 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 ISAAC; or through the use of an electronic device or an electronic mobile device owned, leased or used by ISAAC.
- B. ISAAC 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 the school;
- C. ISAAC 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, ISAAC 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 ISAAC Policy and the Safe School Climate Plan shall be subject to school

discipline, up to and including expulsion, in accordance with ISAAC's policies on student discipline, suspension and expulsion, and consistent with state and federal law.

II. Definition of Bullying

- A. **"Bullying"** means the repeated use by one or more students of a written, oral or electronic communication, such as cyberbullying, directed at or referring to another student attending ISAAC, or a physical act or gesture by one or more students repeatedly directed at or referring to another student attending ISAAC, that:
- (1) causes physical or emotional harm to such student or damage to such student's property;
 - (2) places such student in reasonable fear of harm to himself or herself, or of damage to his or her property;
 - (3) creates a hostile environment at school for such student;
 - (4) infringes on the rights of such student at school; or
 - (5) substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of the school.
- B. Bullying shall include, but not be limited to, a written, verbal 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, photoelectronic or photo-optical system.
- C. **"Hostile environment"** means a situation in which bullying among students is sufficiently severe or pervasive to alter the conditions of the school climate.
- D. **"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.

- E. **"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 ISAAC.
- F. **"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 all grades, (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, (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.
- G. **"School climate"** means the quality and character of school life with a particular focus on the quality of the relationships within the school community between and among students and adults.
- H. **"School employee"** means (1) a teacher, substitute teacher, school administrator, school Executive Director, guidance counselor, psychologist, social worker, nurse, physician, school paraprofessional or coach employed by ISAAC; or (2) any other individual who, in the performance of his or her duties, has regular contact with students and who provides services to or on behalf of students enrolled in ISAAC, pursuant to a contract with ISAAC.
- I. **"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 ISAAC.
- J. **"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

The **Executive Director** shall appoint, from existing school staff, a Safe School Climate Coordinator ("Coordinator"). The Coordinator shall:

- (1) be responsible for implementing the ISAAC Safe School Climate Plan (“Plan”);
- (2) collaborate with the Safe School Climate Specialist, and the **Executive Director** to prevent, identify and respond to bullying in the school;
- (3) provide data and information, in collaboration with the **Executive Director**, to the Department of Education regarding bullying; and
- (4) meet with Safe School Climate Specialist at least twice during the school year to discuss issues relating to bullying in the school and to make recommendations concerning amendments to ISAAC’s Plan.

B. Safe School Climate Specialist

The Executive Director shall designate a 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. The Executive Director **and/or Safe School Climate Specialist** 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 Executive Director **and/or Safe School Climate Specialist**.
- 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; (7) collaborate with the Coordinator in the collection of data regarding bullying; and (8) perform any other duties as determined by the Safe School Climate Specialist that are related to the prevention, identification and response to school bullying.
- C. Any parent/guardian 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 ISAAC Board of Directors 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 ISAAC's web site and ensure that the Safe School Climate Plan is included in the school'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, 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. Students may also request anonymity when making a report, even if the student's identity is known to the school employee. In cases where a student requests anonymity, the Safe School Climate Specialist or his/her 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. All anonymous reports 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 report, 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 report.
- 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.
- 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 ISAAC 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 (48) hours** after the investigation is completed. This notification shall include a description of the school's response to the acts of bullying. In providing such notification, however, ISAAC 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 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 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. If bullying is verified, the Safe School Climate Specialist or designee shall develop a student safety support plan for any student against whom an act of bullying was directed. Such support plan will include safety measures to protect against further acts of bullying.
- 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 **Executive Director (or Safe School Climate Specialist)** reasonably believes that any act of bullying constitutes a criminal offense, he/she shall notify appropriate law enforcement. Notice shall be consistent with ISAAC's obligations under state and federal law and ISAAC policy regarding the disclosure of personally identifiable student information. In making this determination, the **Executive Director (or Safe School Climate Specialist)**, may consult with the school resource officer, if any, and other individuals **Executive Director (or Safe School Climate Specialist)** 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, disability or gender identity or expression), the Safe School Climate Specialist or designee shall also coordinate any bullying investigation with other appropriate personnel as appropriate (e.g. Title IX Coordinator, Section 504 Coordinator, etc.), so as to ensure that any such bullying investigation complies with the requirements of such policies regarding nondiscrimination.

VIII. Teen Dating Violence

- A. The school 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 of students) 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.
- 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 such conduct occurs on or off campus, in accordance with ISAAC policy and consistent with federal and state law.

IX. Documentation and Maintenance of Log

- A. ISAAC school shall maintain written reports of bullying, along with supporting documentation received and/or created as a result of bullying investigations, consistent with ISAAC'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 ISAAC's policy and state and federal law.
- B. The **Executive Director** 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 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 the 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 **Executive Director** 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 to teen dating violence. While conduct that rises to the level of “bullying” or “teen dating violence” as defined above, will generally warrant traditional 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 Executive Director (or responsible administrator or his/her 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 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 or restorative actions as determined by the responsible administrator.
- C. The following sets forth possible interventions which may also be utilized to enforce ISAAC’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. 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.

If a complaint arises out of conflict between students or groups of students, peer or other forms of 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 ISAAC Student Discipline policy.

Expulsion may be imposed only after a hearing before the ISAAC Board of Directors, a committee of the Board or an impartial hearing officer designated by the Board of Directors in accordance with the ISAAC 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 **Executive Director** (or other responsible administrator) or his/her designee shall intervene in order to address 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 or other forms of 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 ISAAC actions may ameliorate potential problems with bullying in school or at school-sponsored activities. Additional school 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 employees in the 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 in all grades, 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/Sexual harassment 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; and
- (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;
- (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 school employees 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.

- (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 mean-spirited student conduct, 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. Improving School Climate

ISAAC Student Support Team’s strategies for improving school climate align with school improvement plans and school climate assessments, and are based on current data available on the quality of school climate within the school including, but not limited to, the type, nature, frequency etc. of behavior that may constitute or lead to bullying, teen dating violence, harassment or similar behavior. These strategies are targeted towards fostering positive school climate rather than exclusively preventing, investigating and otherwise responding to specific incidences of bullying and teen dating violence.

XII. 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.
- B. ISAAC shall provide for the inclusion of language in student codes of conduct concerning bullying.
- C. At the beginning of each school year, ISAAC shall provide all school employees with a written or electronic copy of the school’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. Any person appointed by ISAAC to serve as the safe school climate coordinator shall complete mental health and first aid training offered by the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

XIII. School Climate Assessments

Biennially, ISAAC shall complete an assessment using the school climate assessment instruments, including surveys, approved and disseminated by the Connecticut State Department of Education. ISAAC shall submit such assessments to the Connecticut State Department of Education.

Legal References:

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-222d

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-222g

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-222k

Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-222l

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

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

ADOPTED: 9/12/12

REVISED: 5/9/18, 1/8/20

Name	Address	Telephone Number
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Have there been previous incidents (circle one)? Yes No

If “yes”, please describe the behavior of concern, or the violence that occurred: include the approximate date(s) and the location(s):

Were these incidents reported to school employees (circle one) Yes No

If “Yes”, to whom was it reported and when?

Was the report verbal or written?

Proposed Solution:

Indicate your opinion on how this problem might be resolved in the school setting. Be as specific as possible.

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

Signature of Reporter Date Submitted Received By Date Received

ADOPTED: 9/12/12

REVISED: 5/9/18, 1/8/20

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**ISAAC REPORT OF BULLYING FORM/
INVESTIGATION SUMMARY**

For Staff Use Only: _____

School _____ **Date** _____

Location(s) _____

Reporter Information:

Anonymous student report _____

Staff Member report _____ Name _____

Parent/Guardian report _____ Name _____

Student report _____ Name _____

Student Reported as Committing Act: _____

Student Reported as Victim: _____

Description of Alleged Act(s): _____

Time and Place: _____

Name(s) of Potential Witness(es): _____

Action of Reporter: _____

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

If Bullying Verified, Have Invitations to Meetings Been Sent to Parents of Students Involved?

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

Date of Meetings:

If Bullying Verified, Has School Developed Student Safety Support/Intervention Plan?

Y N

(Attach bullying complaint and witness statements. If bullying is verified, attach notification to parents of students involved, invitations to parent meetings, and records of parent meetings).

ADOPTED: 9/12/12

REVISED: 5/9/18, 1/8/20

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, ISAAC 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 ISAAC 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 ISAAC to disclose the fact that a complaint concerning my child has been filed as part of its review of that complaint.

Signature of Parent/Guardian Date

Name (Please print)

ADOPTED: 9/12/12

REVISED: 5/9/18, 1/8/20