

## II. BEST PRACTICES IN BULLYING PREVENTION

1. **Make bullying prevention an integral and permanent component of focusing on the overall school climate and culture**
  - a. Bullying prevention should be an ongoing part of creating a safe, respectful environment for all students, staff and parents.
  - b. Use of a program may be part of prevention efforts, but prevention work should be integrated into all facets of the school climate.
2. **Establish support and coordination of bullying prevention activities**
  - a. Form and utilize a team to address bullying prevention efforts
  - b. Team should consist of representation from administration, all staff, and parents.
  - c. Give young people an active and meaningful role in bullying prevention efforts.
  - d. A student advisory group or other strategies will assist in securing buy-in from students.
3. **Regularly assess the bullying and school climate at your school**
  - a. School climate assessments will give you a baseline as well as help you decide what types of interventions would be most effective to address the issues at your school.
  - b. Assessing the climate will also help everyone in the school get on board with trying to create a safer climate.
  - c. Regularly re-administer assessments to monitor progress and improve and update efforts.
4. **Establish and consistently enforce school rules and policies related to bullying prevention and intervention.**
  - a. Review bullying policies and rules to be sure they are clearly defined and cover all types of bullying behaviors. The schools in the district are subject to all federal and state laws and constitutional provisions prohibiting discrimination on the basis of disability, race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, ancestry, or need for special education services as outlined in C.R.S. 22-32-109(1)(11)(I). Some forms of bullying may rise to the level of criminal acts including sexual and physical assault and must be handled as such.
  - b. Rules, policies, and interventions need to address all school populations.
  - c. Policies should also encourage active participation in stopping bullying behavior observed by staff and students.
  - d. Consequences need to be clear and consistently enforced.
5. **Provide ongoing training for *all* staff in bullying awareness, prevention, and appropriate interventions.**
  - a. School staff need skills in best practices for responding to bullying immediately. See Stop Bullying Now reference: *How to Intervene to Stop Bullying: Tips for On-the-Spot Intervention at School.*



- b. Communicate clear expectations for staff and appropriate use of consequences for bullying behavior.
  - c. Staff should be trained in understanding the difference between normal conflict and bullying.
  - d. School staff also need to know how best to support those who have been bullied. See Stop Bullying Now handout: *Providing Support to Children Who are Bullied: Tips for School Personnel and Other Adults*.
- 6. Increase adult supervision in “hot spots” where bullying occurs.**
- a. Climate assessments can identify hot spots.
  - b. Increased staff supervision can go a long way to reducing bullying behaviors.
- 7. Intervene immediately, consistently, equitably and appropriately when bullying occurs.**
- a. Immediate response by staff will create teachable moments
  - b. Some students will also need individual follow-up, both those who have been targets or those displaying bullying behaviors.
- 8. Focus some class time on bullying prevention efforts**
- a. Integrate time for teaching and empowering students in bullying awareness and skills for appropriate response and reporting into class time and other activities.
  - b. Bullying prevention needs to be integrated into good classroom management and peer relationship building.
  - c. Anti-bullying themes and messages should be incorporated throughout the school curriculum.
- 9. Develop cultural competency strategies, skills, and use programs that are inclusive**
- a. Demonstrate and reinforce respect for differences.
  - b. Enhance communication and relationship building skills.
- 10. Continue efforts over time.**
- a. Good bullying prevention is on-going.
  - b. Bullying prevention should be woven into the school environment.

*Adapted September, 2011 from Stop Bullying Now: Best Practices in Bullying Prevention and Intervention and Steps to Address Bullying at Your School: Tips for School Administrators, U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.*

