

**SANTA FE ISD**

# **SAFETY MATTERS**

*Santa Fe ISD Safe and Secure Schools Update*

*October 5, 2018*

As we discussed last week, October is National Bullying Prevention Month set aside to encourage students, parents, recreation programs, religious institutions, and community organizations to engage in a variety of awareness and prevention activities designed to stop bullying and to make our schools and communities safer for all children and adolescents. And, our schools are involved in bullying prevention programs throughout the month.



Santa Fe ISD Transportation participated in Bullying Awareness and Prevention Training with former Houston Oiler Jerry LeVias, who shared his experiences being bullied as a child and also while he was an All-American playing for Southern Methodist University. He helped

provide bus drivers with tools to address and prevent bullying on the school bus.

## **Santa Fe ISD Board Policy Prohibits Bullying**

As stated in Board Policy FFI, Santa Fe ISD prohibits bullying, requires a timely investigation and notification, and prohibits retaliation against those who report bullying. The District takes bullying of any kind very seriously, and we want to share detailed information with you about the process of reporting and investigating bullying in our Santa Fe ISD schools.

These procedures are found in Board Policy FFI and in disciplinary procedures which are posted on each of our campus websites under the "Connect with campus" section titled Report Bullying (Anonymous). Bullying can also be reported using the Tribal Tips "See Something, Say Something" reporting option on the SFISD district homepage and also on the SFISD Police Department homepage.

## **Santa Fe ISD Bullying Procedures**

### **How can a bullying report be initiated in Santa Fe ISD?**

- Anonymously through a link on each campus website
- Anonymously through a QR code that was provided and monitored by the SFISD Police Department (Tribal Tips – located on the Police webpage of the SFISD website <https://www.sfid.org/Domain/32> )
- To a teacher, counselor, librarian, nurse, assistant principal, or any other campus/district staff member
- Tribal Tips, “See Something, Say Something” reporting option [TRIBALTIPS](#)
- Social Sentinel-provides near real-time awareness of possible safety/security threats made on public social media. The Santa Fe ISD Police Department monitors this social media service.

### **Who can make a bullying report?**

- Anyone! The links to reporting are anonymous and open to anyone who would like to make a report.

### **What happens when the district receives a bullying report?**

- The report is referred to the appropriate district personnel (assistant principal, police, counselor) for investigation
- All required parent notifications are made within the required timeframe
- Campus administrators complete a thorough investigation through interviews with all involved parties (the one alleged to be bullied, the person alleged to be the bully, and witnesses who may have information regarding the report), as well as, any evidence collected
- When all data is gathered, campus administrators review the evidence and use the Bullying Checklist for Schools provided by the Texas School Safety Center ([www.txssc.txstate.edu](http://www.txssc.txstate.edu)). This Bullying Checklist was updated in October 2017 and is used to determine whether an act is bullying or cyberbullying by law. If any identified section does not receive at least one checkmark, then the act is not considered bullying by state law. In 2017, during the 85<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session, *Senate Bill 179*, “David’s Law” was enacted expanding the authority to school districts, allowing public and charter schools to address cyberbullying off-campus and outside of school-related or school-sponsored activities based on specific criteria. In order to address this legislative change, this checklist is designed to help parents, educators, and administrators determine if a student at their school has been bullied according to the legislative definition. There are also questions regarding the use of electronic communication devices to assist in determining possible bullying scenarios.
- **If it is determined the incident IS bullying,**
  - Campus response: The principal is informed and the campus utilizes Chapter 37 of the Texas Education Code, campus discipline management plans, and the Santa Fe ISD Student Code of Conduct to determine disciplinary consequences.

- *If an alternative placement is determined*, the case goes before the District Discipline Committee to ensure due process and that the discipline falls within the guidelines of Chapter 37 and the Student Code of Conduct.
  - The Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction is contacted regarding the incident
  - While attending the alternative placement assignment, students receive routine counseling
- *What if an alternative placement is not the consequence?*
  - If an alternative placement is not made, the student receives consequences based on the SFISD Student Code of Conduct and the campus discipline management plan. Students are referred for counseling.
- A transition plan is written and monitored upon the student's return to campus
- Ongoing monitoring is provided through the Counseling Team, assistant principals, and other campus personnel as assigned. The district is in the implementation phase of Threat Assessment Teams and these students will be monitored on an ongoing basis.
  - Police response: If warranted, the police are responsible for determining any and all charges to be filed.
- **If it is determined the incident is NOT bullying:**
  - The campus utilizes Chapter 37 of the Texas Education Code, local campus discipline plans and the Santa Fe ISD Student Code of Conduct to determine disciplinary consequences, if any.
  - The campus may utilize a "Stay Away Agreement" process in order to limit student interaction on campus.
  - Counseling referrals and follow-up are assigned to campus personnel, if needed

**Reminder: The Resiliency Center provides free long-term services at no cost to Santa Fe community members.** The Center's caring professionals provide a safe and supportive healing environment dedicated to everyone affected by the incident. As a referral hub, the Center works with partner agencies that provide spiritual care referrals, training, advocacy, legal aid, equine therapy, recreational therapy, and more. The Resiliency Center is open daily, and for more information, contact the center directly at 409-218-7129 or email [cgaylord@ci.santa-fe.tx.us](mailto:cgaylord@ci.santa-fe.tx.us).

### **Questions?**

Please submit any questions you may have to the Santa Fe Strong Interactive Web Portal at: [santafeupdates.com/contact-us](http://santafeupdates.com/contact-us)