Bullying Investigation Process

Use the flow chart below in conjunction with Policy FFI to determine if bullying pursuant to TEC 37.0832 has occurred. Notify the parents of the alleged victim within three days of receiving the report of bullying. Promptly begin investigation. Document the investigation and its results on appropriate District forms.

Did a student or group of students:
Engage in a **single significant act** toward the alleged victim?
Or
Engage in a pattern of acts toward the alleged victim?

Yes ↓

Is there an **imbalance of power** between the alleged victim and the alleged bully(ies)?

Yes ↓

Did the act(s) committed by the alleged bully(ies) involve:
Written Expression?
Verbal Expression?
Physical Contact?
Expression through Electronic Means*?

Yes ↓

Did the act(s) have the effect or will have the effect of physically harming the alleged victim, damaging his/her property, or placing the alleged victim in reasonable fear of harm to their person or property?
Or
Was/is the act(s) sufficiently **severe, persistent, and pervasive** enough that the action or threat created an intimidating, threatening, or abusive environment for the alleged victim?
Or
Did the act(s) **materially and substantially** disrupt the educational process or the orderly operation of a classroom or the school?
Or
Did the act(s) **infringe on the rights** of the alleged victim at school?

No → The act(s) is not bullying. Consider if Policy FFH applies. Notify parents of students involved of investigation findings. Apply consequences in accordance with the *Student Code of Conduct.*

Yes ↓

For act(s) of written or verbal expression and physical conduct:
Did the act(s) occur at or was it delivered to school or a school sponsored/related activity?
Or
Did the act(s) occur on a private or public vehicle/bus used to transport students to/from school or a school sponsored/related activity?

Yes ↓

Behavior is bullying.
Notify parents of students involved of investigation findings. Apply Chapter 37 mitigating factors as appropriate. Determine consequences in accordance with the *Student Code of Conduct.*
If act(s) constitute Assault (Texas Penal Code §22.01) or Harassment (Texas Penal Code §42.07), determine if report to law enforcement is appropriate.

Yes ↓

If the act occurred through electronic means, but not on school property or at a school event/activity, did it interfere with the alleged victim's educational opportunities or create a substantial disruption at school or a school related activity?

Yes ↓

Behavior is cyberbullying.
Notify parents of students involved of investigation findings. Apply Chapter 37 mitigating factors as appropriate. Determine consequences in accordance with the *Student Code of Conduct.* If act(s) constitutes Harassment (Texas Penal Code §42.07), determine if report to law enforcement is appropriate.

* *This includes the use of electronic communications, including cellular or other telephone, computer, camera, e-mail, instant-messaging, text messaging, a social media application, an Internet website, or any other Internet based communication tool.*