

Prevention of School Bullying Task Force – DRAFT

Listening Sessions--Students: The sessions with student would be held in circle, with the facilitator using a talking piece to ensure that all voices are heard.

Introductions: Name, grade, reason for wanting to be part of this focus group, favorite subject in school. Overview of the taskforce and its job. Request for input to the taskforce.

Questions:

1. What are the issues that are of most concern to you when it comes to school safety, bullying and harassment issues in schools?
2. What do adults need to know if they work in a school that could help any youth who experiences bullying, either in school, on line or in the community?
3. What's working: What are your schools doing that helps address those issues effectively?
4. In your experiences at school is there anything—a program, a class—or anyone, teacher, staff, volunteer—who supports you?

Taking Action:

5. What would you suggest we recommend to youth so they can work to make a better, safer school in their district?
6. We know that one of the challenges with bullying is that not everyone reports when they are being bullied to adults in school or at home or when they might witness bullying. What can adults do to make it more likely for youth to report bullying?
7. What can you do or what do you do to make a safer school? How can other students be helpful in preventing bullying?
8. Often incidents of bullying occur outside of the school day or in the community. What advice do you have about how these should be handled?
9. The task force is charged to make recommendations to the Governor and the legislature for effective and comprehensive policies to prevent bullying. This includes a definition of bullying; actions administrators can take to prevent bullying and address incidents when they occur; training to help prevent bullying. What do you think would be most important?
10. From your perspective - what elements in a law would make a difference in addressing bullying at your school?
11. If there was one piece of advice you would give to Task Force members as to what can be done to create safe schools -- ones where every student feels they belong, feels they are valued, and feels physically and emotionally safe so that they can focus on learning -- what would it be?

Any final thoughts? Thank you for your thoughts and suggestions!

Community Listening Sessions: The facilitator will use the following discussion points to focus the discussion and to ensure that all voices are heard.

Introductions: Name and reason for wanting to be part of this focus group. Present an overview of the taskforce and its job. Request for input to the taskforce.

Questions:

1. What are the issues that are of most concern to you when it comes to school safety, bullying and harassment issues in schools?
2. What do you as adults need to know that could help any youth who experiences bullying, either in school, on line or in the community?
3. What's working: What are your schools doing that helps address those issues effectively?
4. In your experiences is there anything—a program, a class—or anyone—teacher, staff, volunteer—who supports students and parents related to this issue?

Taking Action:

5. What would you suggest we recommend to youth so they can work to make a better, safer school in their district?
6. We know that one of the challenges with bullying is that not everyone reports when they are being bullied to adults in school or at home or when they might witness bullying. What can adults do to make it more likely for youth to report bullying?
7. What can you do or what do you do to make a safer school? How can other students be helpful in preventing bullying?
8. Often incidents of bullying occur outside of the school day or in the community. What advice do you have about how these should be handled?
9. The task force is charged to make recommendations to the Governor and the legislature for effective and comprehensive policies to prevent bullying. This includes a definition of bullying; actions administrators can take to prevent bullying and address incidents when they occur; training to help prevent bullying. What do you think would be most important?
10. From your perspective - what elements in a law would make a difference in addressing bullying at your school and in the community?
11. If there was one piece of advice you would give to Task Force members as to what can be done to create safe schools -- ones where every student feels they belong, feels they are valued, and feels physically and emotionally safe so that they can focus on learning -- what would it be?

Any final thoughts? Thank you for your thoughts and suggestions!