“Bullying Prevention Checklist”
(things to consider)

Presenter
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Kentucky Center for School Safety
Basic premise from the U.S. Department of Education

• A culture and climate of safety is essential to the prevention of school violence and to the success of all students.

• Teachers cannot teach and students cannot learn in an environment in which they feel unsafe.

• Any effort that promotes school safety and student well-being also promotes the academic mission of a school.

Kentucky Center for School Safety
“The Kentucky Board of Education’s position of zero tolerance for bullying is to ensure that schools are preventing bullying prompted by any motive. Zero tolerance is the only standard that will protect all of our students, and no student deserves less than our full protection. No reason whatsoever will justify the bullying, or the allowance of bullying, of a student in our schools, period.” (David Karem, Chair, Kentucky State Board of Education)
• At least 160,000 students skip classes each school day because they fear physical harm.

(National Education Association)
More than 150,000 school age children bring a gun to school each school day.

U.S. Department of Education and Center for Disease Control and Prevention
• 70% of those arrested for hate crimes are under 19.

(U.S. News)
Do these snapshots look like the faces of school violence perpetrators?
Define Bullying

1. Unwanted acts directed toward another person
2. Usually repeated
3. Usually involves an imbalance of power.
4. KRS 158.156=Chapter 508 Felony acts…
   a.) Assault
   b.) Menacing
   c.) Wanton endangerment
   d.) Terroristic threatening
   e.) Criminal abuse
   f.) Stalking
Who “owns” this and what about “zero tolerance?”

This is not just a school issue, it’s a life-long issue. Bullying doesn’t stop at graduation... (unfortunately!)

✔ KCSS position is a modified “zero-tolerance”: (one size doesn’t fit all) investigate every incident and make decisions based on the facts of each case.
What’s the extent of the bullying problem in our state?

1. The #1 problem

2. 80% occurs electronically and usually goes undetected by adults (texting and Facebook…)

3. The # of girls bullying other girls has increased significantly

4. Schools are receiving the “brunt” of the blame for a “community problem”
Who’s problem is this?

- Bullying is everyone’s problem.
- We are all in this together and it’s going to take “The Village” to effectively address this problem: parents, school officials, students, private sector, churches, governmental agencies just to name a few.
- Schools do what they can do from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. but from 3 p.m. until the next morning…someone else needs to address this problem.
What efforts are being made in the schools?

1. Implementation training for (HB91) KRS 158.156
2. Refine School Board and SBDM policies
3. Awareness training for staff
4. Awareness assemblies for students
5. Statewide professional development opportunities
Some Prevention Ideas
(not all inclusive…just some food for thought)

• With this being such high profile issue, school principals must demonstrate good faith efforts to investigate any and all reports of bullying/harassment and take the appropriate administrative action when necessary.

• It’s important to have “some kind” of prevention plan in place prior to the beginning of each school year.

• Let’s review some ideas….
✓ Ensure that all staff and students are publicly exposed to and given a copy of the bullying/harassment policy.

➢ For example: have principals discuss the policy with students and staff at faculty, staff, open house/PTA meetings and student-group meetings within the first couple of weeks of school. In addition, remind everyone of this policy throughout the school year. Constantly (and consistently) call attention to these policies in student and staff handbooks, School Board policies, criminal laws, etc.
New staff training

✓ Conduct an in-depth training on bullying/harassment for NEW staff, both certified and classified.
Annual Update Training

✓ Conduct update training for current staff members before schools starts for the year or shortly thereafter. Include certified and classified staff members in the training.
When reports are filed….

 ✓ Describe the steps that will be taken by school officials when they receive a report or witness a child being bullied or harassed.
Send home a copy of the bullying/harassment policy to all parents/guardians.
Provide explicit instructions to students on how to report bullying offenses and where and to whom to report them.
Alternative Ways of Reporting

Ensure that multiple “drop boxes” are available to students throughout the school to report incidents of harassment/bullying that they have experienced/witnessed. Monitor the boxes every 3 hours.
Alternative Ways of Reporting

✓ Provide an “after-hour” bullying tip-line. (Simply use a school line and add an answering machine service to it.)
Display Anti-Bullying posters throughout the school in high profile/traffic areas.
Community help...

- Ask the local Chamber of Commerce to distribute literature throughout its membership acknowledging that bullying/harassment is a community threat (in the neighborhoods) as well as at school.

- Engage as many community groups as possible to take the stand against bullying: churches, businesses...etc.
Publish parent/guardian responsibilities. Make certain they understand that:

a. 80% of the bullying takes place electronically—usually on the internet. (Social Networks such as Facebook, etc. and/or texting.) School officials are reliant on the victims or parents to report the unobserved bullying incidents.

b. Since most of the non-electronic bullying is hidden from adults, school officials are, again, reliant on the victims or parents to report the unobserved bullying incidents.

c. Bullying is a community problem. It not only occurs in the school, but in neighborhoods and/or homes as well. Neighborhood watch groups are quite effective.

d. Parents need to monitor their child’s activities on the internet, social networks, and child’s cell phone text messages…a minimum of once a week.

e. Consider meeting early in the school year with students who have exhibited bullying behavior at the school in the past and their parents and offer appropriate strategies of preventative support and intervention to them for the upcoming school year. (I know this is a stretch... 😊)
Prevention PSA Campaign
(within the school)

- Run in-school PSA announcements at least once per month that deal with enhancing a Bully Free environment.
- Check out PSA’s and YouTube offerings on KCSS web site.
- Have students create their own PSAs and broadcast them at school.
External PR Campaign

✓ Work/partner with local media outlets and encourage them to run PSA’s on having a bully-free community.
Bullying

Bullying is widespread across our nation's and Kentucky's schools. This year's Kentucky Safe Schools Week theme “BULLYING: Be Part of the Cure” emphasizes the part each individual can play in stopping this harmful "disease" from becoming "viral". During this campaign each student and staff member will be empowered to become "Part of the Cure" helping to do their part to stop bullying and create a safe respectful climate in their school. Mark your calendars, join us and other Kentucky schools as we celebrate Oct 21-27!

1. CHECK OUT TEACHER PAGE
2. ADMINISTRATORS PAGE

Join the Celebration in your School, Town and County!

Get your community involved prior to KY Safe Schools Week promote it in your area; in the newspaper, on the radio, on your school website, there is no limit!

Poster/Flyer (Poster, flattened version)
How to Take the Pledge Flyer
Badges or Stickers
Bookmarks
Be Part of the Cure (To the tune of YMCA)
Document and Advertise

- Document all efforts that are being made to prevent and curb bullying.
- Publicize the school’s/districts efforts via PTA, newspaper, TV, radio etc.
- Always include this is a community problem and we all need to work together!
Questions/Comments

• Feel free to add to this list..
• Your input is certainly appreciated!!
• Please contact me at....  (next slide, Jon!! 😊)

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