

## QUAKER HILL SCHOOL SAFE SCHOOL CLIMATE PLAN

### **Rationale**

An Act Concerning the Strengthening of School Bullying Laws, Public Act No. 11-232 makes significant changes in the bullying statute effective July 1, 2012 and imposes significant new responsibilities on school personnel. Quaker Hill Elementary School is committed to creating and maintaining an educational environment free from bullying, harassment and discrimination.

Effective 2014- these additional pieces were added to the School Bullying Laws:

P. A. 14 – 172, P. A. 14 – 196 (tangentially), P. A. 14 – 232 and P. A. 14 – 234. Following the enactment of these Public Acts, the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) provided guidance to local districts on the changes required of district Plans. These include procedural changes as well as a new requirement for addressing teen dating violence.

*P.A. 14-172: AN ACT CONCERNING IMPROVING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH EDUCATION AND ENSURING SAFE SCHOOL CLIMATES.*

<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2014/act/pa/pdf/2014PA-00172-R00SB-00106-PA.pdf>

and

*P.A. 14-234: AN ACT CONCERNING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT.*

<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2014/ACT/pa/pdf/2014PA-00234-R00HB-05593-PA.pdf>

### **Definition of Bullying**

“The repeated use by one or more students of a written, verbal or electronic communication, such as cyber-bullying, or a physical act or gesture directed at another student attending school in that same school district that:

- Causes physical or emotional harm to such student or damage to such student’s property;
- Places such student in reasonable fear of harm to himself or herself or of damage to his property; σ
- Creates a hostile environment (a situation in which bullying among students is sufficiently severe or pervasive to alter the condition of the school climate) at school for such student; σ Infringes on the rights of such student at school;
- Substantially disrupts the education process or orderly operation of a school.

Bullying shall include, but not be limited to, a written, verbal or electronic communication or physical act or gesture based on any actual or perceived differentiating characteristics, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, socioeconomic status, academic status, physical appearance, or mental, physical or developmental or sensory disability,

or by association with an individual or group who has or is perceived to have one or more of such characteristics.

### **Our School Responsibilities**

- Safe School Climate District-wide Coordinator appointed by July 1, 2012
- Safe School Climate Specialist (Building level) by July 1, 2012
- Establish a Safe School Climate Committee -
- Develop and implement a Safe School Climate Plan
- Complete a Safe School Climate Assessment biennially on or after July 1, 2012

### **Committee Responsibilities**

The Quaker Hill Faculty and Staff are committed to proactively educating students about the dangers of bullying in order to avoid instances of bullying. Strategies include- whole school assemblies, “push in,” lessons from School Social Worker and School Psychologists, and promoting a positive learning environment by recognizing positive social behaviors whenever possible.

### **The committee will:**

- Educate students, school employees and parents and guardians of students on issues relating to bullying;
- Receive and review copies of completed reports following investigations of bullying;
- Identify and address patterns of bullying among students in the school;
- Review and amend school policies relating to bullying;
- Survey parents, students, and staff with the Safe School Climate Survey
- Review the data from the surveys and make recommendations to the district safe school climate coordinator.