

NEXT STEPS

Spring–Summer 2026

- Review district policies alongside Ohio law and national best practices
- Gather parent and student feedback regarding school climate and student safety
- Identify implementation gaps and operational concerns
- Research evidence-based bullying prevention and school climate models

Fall 2026

- Develop recommendations for clearer operational standards, accountability systems, meaningful safety communication practices, and recurrence prevention protocols
- Encourage collaborative policy review discussions with district leadership and community stakeholders



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Modernizing Anti-Bullying Policies Through Clear Accountability and Student-Centered Protection



THE OHIO STATE
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INTRODUCTION/NEED ADDRESSED

Current anti-bullying policies and implementation practices may be too vague and inconsistently applied to ensure meaningful student protection. Policies should function as clearly defined operational systems that students, families, educators, and administrators can consistently understand and implement.

Students and families should clearly understand:

- prohibited behaviors,
- reporting procedures,
- student protections,
- recurrence prevention measures,
- staff responsibilities,
- and possible consequences for repeated harmful behavior.

A student-centered safety system should not place the primary burden of monitoring, reporting, or recurrence prevention on affected students and families.

GOAL and OBJECTIVES

By November 2026, recommendations for clearer anti-bullying operational procedures, implementation accountability systems, recurrence prevention protocols, meaningful safety communication standards, and implementation review processes will be developed and shared with district leadership and community stakeholders. This project aims to:

- reduce ambiguity in policy interpretation,
- strengthen district-wide implementation standards,
- support psychological safety,
- reinforce healthy social expectations and behavioral accountability,
- improve communication and trust between families and schools,
- reduce excessive burden placed on affected families,
- and promote evidence-based student safety practices.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN DESCRIPTION

Policy Modernization & Operational Standards

- Review Ohio anti-bullying requirements and district implementation practices
- Compare district policies with national best practices and evidence-based school climate models
- Develop clearer operational procedures, accountability standards, and implementation guidance
- Reduce ambiguity and inconsistent interpretation across schools and staff

Accountability, Follow-Up & Safety Communication

- Clearly assigned implementation responsibilities
- Documented follow-up procedures and audit systems
- Recurrence prevention monitoring and escalation review processes
- Meaningful communication regarding:
 - safety measures,
 - supervision expectations,
 - follow-up procedures,
 - and operational student protections
- Reduce prolonged uncertainty and emotional burden for affected families

Student privacy protections should not prevent schools from meaningfully communicating how student safety concerns are being addressed operationally.

Student Expectations & School Climate

- Reinforce healthy social expectations, emotional regulation, respectful peer interaction, and behavioral accountability
- Encourage early intervention and developmentally appropriate behavioral education
- Support regular school climate and student safety assessments
- Promote ongoing family-school communication and evidence-based prevention practices

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Improved Student Safety

Students feel more protected, supported, and confident reporting concerns.

Stronger Accountability & Prevention

Schools implement clearer operational standards, follow-up systems, recurrence prevention procedures, and implementation accountability practices.

Positive Student Development

Students learn healthy social expectations, respectful peer interaction, emotional regulation, and accountability for behaviors affecting others.

Strengthened Trust & School Climate

Clearer operational standards, meaningful follow-up, and stronger recurrence prevention systems may strengthen trust between families and schools while improving confidence in student safety systems and long-term school climate outcomes.

EXPECTED CHALLENGES

Policy Transition & Operational Alignment

Transitioning from broad policy language toward clearer operational procedures and accountability systems may require district-wide alignment and staff training.

Balancing Privacy & Transparency

Schools must protect student privacy while still communicating meaningful safety measures and recurrence prevention efforts to affected families.

Long-Term Sustainability

Maintaining implementation consistency and accountability systems may require continued district commitment and review.