



## **Bullying Prevention Policy**

At FXW, we are deeply committed to fostering an inclusive and supportive environment for all students, aligning with our mission to promote the dignity and worth of every individual. We wholeheartedly support P.A. 103-0047, which amends the School Code to expand the definition of bullying and enhance the protections for vulnerable student populations. This legislation aligns seamlessly with our charisms of respect, compassion, and justice, emphasizing our dedication to ensuring that every student feels safe, valued, and empowered within our school community.

The broadened definition of bullying to include factors such as physical appearance, socioeconomic status, academic status, pregnancy, parenting status, and homelessness reflects our understanding of the diverse challenges that students may face. By acknowledging these additional dimensions of bullying, we can better address the unique needs of our students and create an environment that promotes empathy and understanding.

Furthermore, the requirement for schools to notify parents or guardians within 24 hours of any alleged bullying incidents or self-harm is a crucial step toward transparency and partnership. At FXW, we believe that open communication between schools and families is vital to fostering a supportive network for our students. We are committed to diligently informing parents and guardians, ensuring that they are involved in the efforts to support their children and address any concerns that arise. Due to the time-sensitive nature of when reports are received, FXW may submit the notification in writing to meet this requirement, which may happen in advance of a meeting. FXW will follow up by offering a meeting as well.

The mandate for schools to publish bullying procedures and policies on publicly accessible websites reinforces our commitment to accountability and accessibility. We recognize that clear communication of policies empowers students, parents, and educators to take an active role in combating bullying and promoting a culture of respect.

Finally, the collection and reporting of non-identifiable data regarding verified allegations of bullying is essential for understanding the prevalence and nature of bullying in our schools. By actively participating in this data-driven approach, FXW is dedicated to continuously improving our strategies and interventions to create a more inclusive learning environment.

In conclusion, FXW stands firmly in support of P.A. 103-0047. We believe that this legislation is a significant step toward creating a safer and more inclusive educational experience for all students. Together, we can work to ensure that every student feels valued and protected, aligning with our mission and charisms as we strive to cultivate a community rooted in respect, compassion, and justice.