

Dear Parents/Guardians of Students at Polo R-VII Schools,

This letter is to provide you with important updates and resources regarding trauma-informed schools and the bullying reporting procedures at Polo R-VII Schools. It is our hope that through these new policies and resources, we can continue to provide students with a safe, caring, and supportive school climate where they are able to reach their fullest potential.

Trauma-Informed Schools Initiative

Pursuant to Missouri Senate Bill 638, Section 161.1050, the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has established the "Trauma-Informed Schools Initiative." Trauma-informed approach involves understanding and responding to the systems of chronic interpersonal trauma and traumatic stress across the lifespan. A trauma-informed school is one that:

- Realizes the widespread impact of trauma and understands potential paths for recovery
- Recognizes the signs and symptoms of trauma in students, teachers, and staff
- Responds by fully integrating knowledge about trauma into its policies, practices, and procedures, and
- Seeks to actively resist re-traumatization.

Information regarding trauma-informed schools can be found at <https://motraumaschools.com>.

Bullying Reporting Procedures

Schools can help prevent bullying by establishing and enforcing school rules and policies that clearly describe how students are expected to treat each other. Polo R-VII School District is committed to each student's success in learning with a caring, responsive, and safe environment that is free of discrimination, violence, or bullying. Our school works to ensure all students have the opportunity and support to develop their fullest potential and share a personal and meaningful bond with people in the school community.

Staff and students will be receiving training and information about the district wide terminology to help address concerns among students and teachers. Students will work with staff members to determine if the behavior/action was rude, mean or bullying. Rude actions would be accidentally saying or doing something that hurts feelings or embarrasses someone. Mean actions would be saying or doing something on purpose to hurt someone maybe once or twice. Bullying is behavior that is on purpose, repeated over time and involves an imbalance of power.

During the 2017 school year, a new reporting procedure was established to help ensure all students have the opportunity to feel safe and supported at Polo. The same reporting procedure will be used throughout the current school year. Reporting procedures will be explained to students and staff members have received training on how to implement the reporting practices. Included with this letter is the outline of the reporting procedures as well as the possible consequences a student may receive if found to be involved in an act of bullying.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact one of the school counselors, Amy Walker or Becky Arway, or your child's building level principal.


Sincerely,


Mr. Kyle Ross
Superintendent


Mr. Jonathan Pickrell
MS/HS Principal


Mrs. Monica Palmer
Elementary Principal

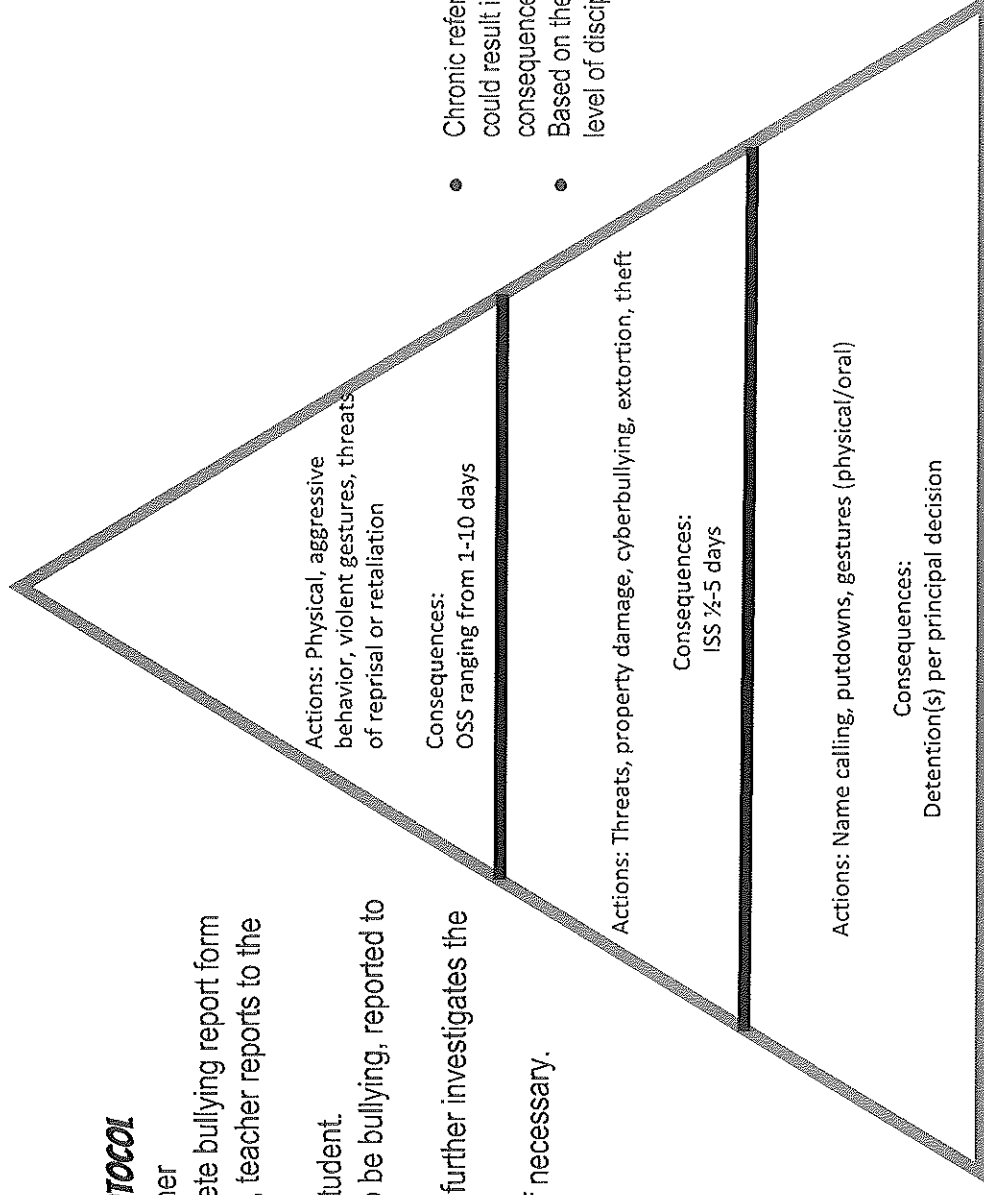

Mrs. Amy Walker
School Counselor


Mrs. Becky Arway
School Counselor

Polo R-VII School District Bullying Reporting Protocol

BULLYING PROTOCOL

1. Student reports to the teacher
2. Student and teacher complete bullying report form
3. If determined to be bullying, teacher reports to the counselor.
4. Counselor meets with the student.
5. If counselor determines it to be bullying, reported to building level administrator.
6. Building level administrator further investigates the report.
7. Report to Superintendent, if necessary.



- Chronic referrals/occurrences at any level could result in more severe consequences.
- Based on the severity of the action(s), the level of discipline may increase.