

# Building a Positive School Climate

# What are the benefits of a positive school climate?

- Interactions amongst staff and students are a source of strength and joy
- A positive climate is conducive to strong academic achievement
- Students will learn and practice the skills they will need later in life.
- All members of the community will feel welcomed and valued

# What is the impact of the new state law?

- The law shifts the focus from consequences to pro-actively building a positive school climate.
- The school will develop a plan and establish a committee including parents to monitor the implementation of the plan.
- The definition of bullying has changed to include cyber bullying.

# What is the definition of Bullying?

- Bullying means 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 the 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;
  - 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
  - Infringes on the rights of such student at school
  - Substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school.

# How can parents get involved in efforts to improve the school climate?

- Have frequent and honest conversations with your children about school climate, harassment and bullying.
- Lead by example in your acceptance of all races, religions, genders, sexual orientations, socio-economic status, etc
- Serve on the SSCC Safe School Climate Committee
- Encourage your children to participate in Safe School Climate Awareness Day
- Volunteer to help supervise and chaperone school activities
- Report incidents of harassment and bullying to school personnel in a prompt and clear manner.

# Remember...

- Your child attends a safe, healthy school with a positive school climate. Our efforts, and those around the state are to assure that every child, in every school feels safe and free from harassment everyday. No matter how great our school already is, we cannot sit by idly and let others lead. We have a moral obligation to help create the most accepting, empathetic and caring environment we can.