

# Bullying Investigation Process and Standards



**August 8, 2023**

# Definitions

---

- Bullying - Texas Education Code (TEC) §37.0832 identifies bullying as a single significant act or a pattern of acts by one or more students directed at another student that exploits an imbalance of power and involves engaging in written or verbal expression, expression through electronic means, or physical conduct
- Cyberbullying- Texas Education Code (TEC) §37.0832 defines cyberbullying as bullying that involves the use of any electronic communication device, including through the use of a cellular or other type of telephone, a computer, a camera, electronic mail, instant messaging, text messaging, a social media application, an internet website, or any other internet-based communication tool.

# Reporting Bullying

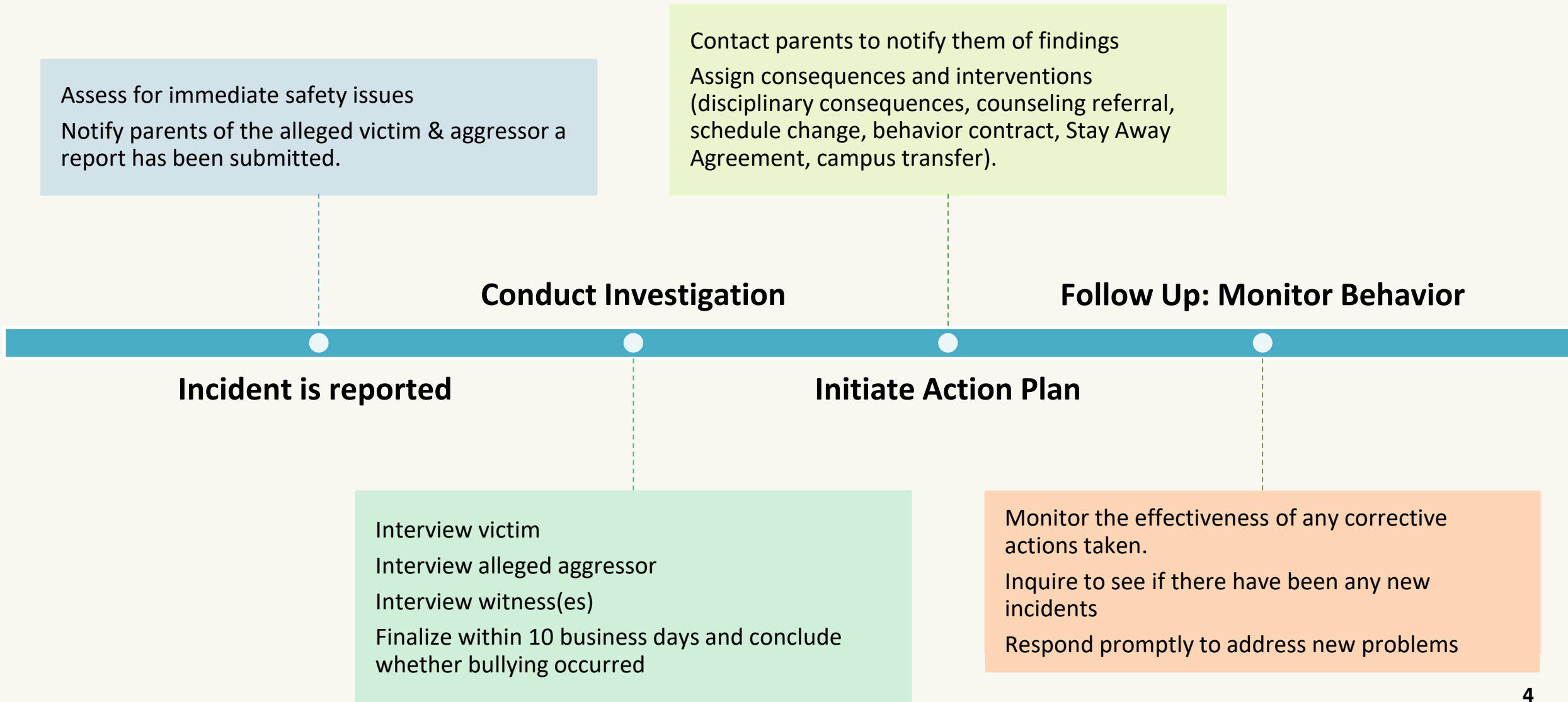


## Bullying Incident Report Forms

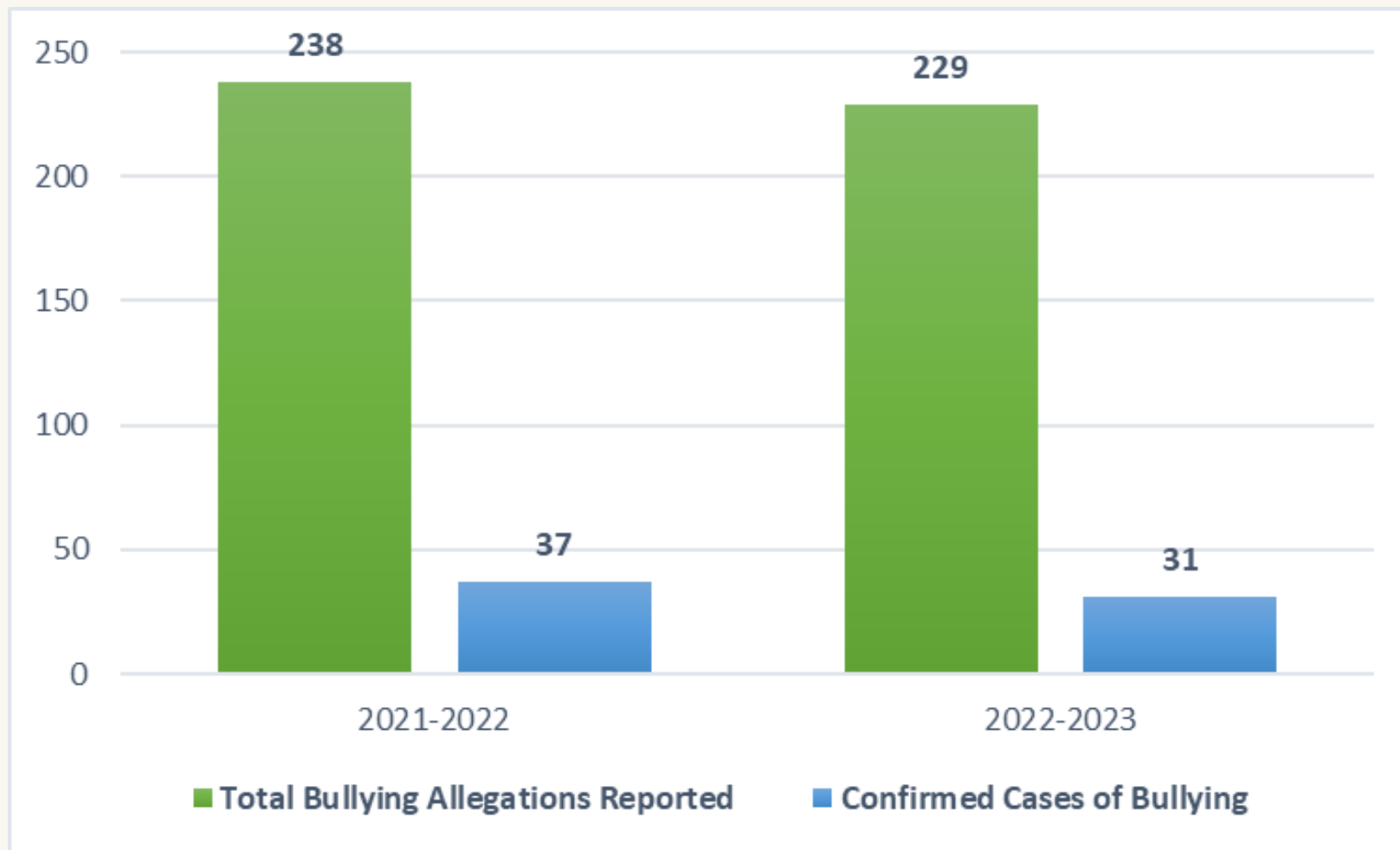
Forms can be found in the school main office and on the ECISD website in both English and Spanish



# Process for Responding to a Report of Bullying



# Bullying Reporting



# TEA Minimum Standards for Bullying Prevention

- Develop a policy for reporting bullying incident
  - FFI (LOCAL) prohibits bullying and includes reporting and investigation procedures
- Use a rubric or checklist to assess the incident of bullying and to determine the appropriate response

## CHECKLIST FOR RESPONDING TO REPORTS OF BULLYING/HARASSMENT (NON-SEXUAL)

- ❑ **Step 1** Obtain details regarding the allegations and ask that they be put in writing using [ECISD Bullying Report Form -Student \(p.5\)](#) or [ECISD Bullying Report Form -Adult \(p. 6\)](#). Note that the law does not require that complaints be written, so even if the reporting party refuses to put the allegations in writing, the administrator has a responsibility to investigate the allegations. If the reporting party refuses to put the allegations in writing, the administrator must reduce the allegations to writing using the [ECISD Bullying Report Intake Form \(p.8-9\)](#).
- ❑ **Step 2** Complete the [ECISD Bullying Report Intake Form \(p.8-9\)](#). Although bullying reports should be made in a timely manner, unlike other district grievances, there is no time limit on when a bullying complaint can be made. Be sure to verify and include years in all documentation to avoid any confusion.

- Provide research-based interventions for both the student who engaged in bullying and those who were targeted
  - Notice of Available Counseling Options to students involved in bullying incidents

# TEA Minimum Standards for Bullying Prevention

- Integrate research-based content into instruction designed to reduce bullying
  - Lessons created by the Counseling Department using TEA curriculum
  - PACER.org- National Bullying Prevention Center
- All actions taken in response to bullying must comply with state and federal law regarding students with disabilities
- Use an age-appropriate survey to measure positive school culture and healthy relationships between students and staff
  - Bullying questions added to the Panorama survey
- Each school will establish a bullying prevention committee that includes parents and students

# Our Work this School Year

---

## Continuing Actions

- All school-based staff and bus drivers will complete bullying training through Safe Schools
  - Bullying: Recognition and Response
  - Cyberbullying
- School administrators will continue to follow the process for all reports of bullying
  - Reports will be turned in to the Director of Administrative Services

## New Actions

- Schools will establish their bullying prevention committees by September 1st
- The Panorama student survey will include questions regarding bullying and cyberbullying
  - Action steps will be taken once principals get the Panorama survey data



# Questions

