Research shows that one of the most effective ways to prevent bullying behavior is to create a positive school climate. School climate encompasses everything that contributes to a student's experience with a school—from the physical building to policies, staff and peer culture.

Use the Connect for Respect (C4R) Toolkit to guide your PTA/PTSA in engaging students in improving the school climate and reducing bullying.

The C4R Toolkit

- **Get started.** Walk through a step-by-step process for engaging students, parents and educators in Connect for Respect while learning about all of the tools National PTA and its partners have available for you.
  - *Connect for Respect PTA Leader's Guide*
  - *Connect for Respect Student Leader's Guide*

- **Assess the current school climate**. Take inventory of the current challenges and strengths of your school climate and chart your progress.
  - **Assessment Topics to Consider**
  - **Assessment Guidelines from Stopbullying.gov**

- **Engage the school community in dialogue**. Bring students, parents and school leaders together for a productive discussion and brainstorm on ways to overcome weaknesses found in assessment.
  - **Sample Agenda for C4R Forum**

- **Develop an action plan.** Create a plan that educates and empowers students, families and the broader school community around bullying prevention and safe school environments.
  - **Sample Action Plan for School-Climate Improvement**
  - **Sample Student Action Plan from PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center**

- **Educate and empower students, families and the community.** Sustain your efforts over time by convening a C4R team that works on this issue throughout the school year.
  - **Educational Poster**

Learn More

- Find out how bullying and school climate are related to students' mental health at the **American Psychological Association.**

- Explore current school climate research and assessment tools at the **National Center for School Climate**.

- Utilize **Welcoming Schools** resources to address gender stereotyping and family diversity in K-5 schools.

- View sample "quick start guides" to get students engaged in campaigns promoting inclusivity and respect at **Not in Our School**.

- Locate and join community events in support National Bullying Prevention Month at **Pacer's National Bullying Prevention Center**.

- Keep up with a central hub of federal resources and numerous partner at **StopBullying.gov**.

Source: National PTA

https://www.pta.org/home/programs/Connect-for-RespectBullying