

LVL Up

Initiative

Building a Safer School Culture in Virginia
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Tidewater Region School District
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LVL Up Initiative

Building a Safer, Supportive, and Inclusive School Culture

FOUNDATIONS



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The Problem

Understanding the impact of bullying on students, schools, and communities.



Legal Definition of Bullying

Key elements under Code of Virginia § 22.1-276.01.



Policy Alignment

Guided by VDOE Model Policy and state requirements.

THE LVL FRAMEWORK



Leverage Using Social Power

Make positive influence the norm.



Voice Bystander Action

Amplify student voice and empower action.



Link Restorative Practices

Rebuild relationships and strengthen school community.

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Addressing online harm and digital citizenship.



VTSS Alignment

Integrating with a multi-tiered system of supports.



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Moving from exclusionary discipline to restorative practices.



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Connecting behavioral concerns to safety and support.

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A cross-functional team that identifies, responds, and supports.



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Our phased plan for successful implementation and sustainability.



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Using data to guide decisions, measure progress, and improve outcomes.



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The results we aim to achieve for students, staff, and our school community.



Key Takeaways

The most important things to remember about LVL Up.



TOGETHER, WE CREATE SCHOOLS
WHERE EVERY STUDENT CAN **LEARN**, **GROW**, AND **THRIVE**.





TRAINING PURPOSE



Equip staff with a research-based anti-bullying framework



Ensure alignment with Virginia law and VDOE policy



Strengthen school climate and student safety



Targett 25% reduction in bullying incidents

- Target: 25% reduction in bullying incidents.

Training Purpose



THE PROBLEM

BULLYING AND STUDENT MISCONDUCT CONTINUE TO IMPACT OUR SCHOOLS



RISING BULLYING INCIDENTS

Bullying continues to be a pervasive issue in schools across the country.

1 IN 5

students report being bullied nationwide (CDC, 2023)



MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT

Bullying is linked to anxiety, depression, and decreased self-esteem.

70%

of students who are bullied report negative effects on their mental health (StopBullying.gov, 2023)



ACADEMIC CONSEQUENCES

Victims and perpetrators of bullying are more likely to struggle academically.

2-9 DAYS

of school are missed by students who are bullied (US DOE, 2022)



SCHOOL CLIMATE AT RISK

Bullying creates fear, reduces trust, and weakens the overall school environment.

53%

of students report that bullying makes them feel unsafe at school (NAESP, 2022)



DISCIPLINE DISPARITIES

Disproportionate discipline referrals continue to affect student groups unequally.

3x

more likely for students of color to receive out-of-school suspensions (US DOE, 2022)



These challenges require a proactive, student-centered, and research-based approach.

IT'S TIME TO LVL UP.

The Problem

- Long-term effects: anxiety, depression, and social dysfunction (Wolke & Lereya, 2021)

Legal Definition of Bullying

Defined by Code of Virginia § 22.1-276.01:

- Repeated Behavior
- Power Imbalance
- Physical, Verbal, or Cyber



LEGAL DEFINITION OF BULLYING

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (VDOE)



“Bullying means the repeated use by one or more students of a written, verbal, or electronic expression or a physical act or gesture or any combination thereof, directed at another student that • physically harms a student or damages the student’s property; • places a student in reasonable fear of physical harm to the student or damage to the student’s property; • creates a hostile educational environment; • substantially disrupts the orderly operation of the school.”

– Code of Virginia § 22.1-276.01

BULLYING IN VIRGINIA INCLUDES FOUR KEY ELEMENTS:



1. REPEATED

Occurs more than once or is part of a pattern of behavior.



2. INTENTIONAL

The behavior is intentional and directed at another student.



3. HARM OR IMPACT

Causes physical harm, fear of harm, or creates a hostile educational environment.



4. DISRUPTION

Substantially disrupts the orderly operation of the school.

EXAMPLES INCLUDE (BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO):



Verbal Threats



Electronic Communications (Social Media, Texts)



Physical Acts or Gestures



Exclusion, Rumors, or Intimidation



Our goal is to ensure every student learns in a **safe, respectful, and supportive** environment—free from bullying.



The LVL Up Initiative is committed to upholding Virginia law and creating schools where every student can **LEARN. VOICE. LINK. and LEAD.**



POLICY ALIGNMENT

Aligned. Compliant. Impactful.

The LVL Up Initiative aligns with federal, state, and local policies and frameworks to ensure compliance and drive meaningful, measurable change.

OUR INITIATIVE SUPPORTS AND STRENGTHENS:



FEDERAL GUIDANCE

- Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)
- Stop Bullying Act
- Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI)
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)



VIRGINIA LAWS AND POLICIES

- Virginia Code § 22.1-276.01 *Bullying Prohibitions*
- Virginia Student Discipline Guidelines
- Model Policies for Bullying Prevention (2015)
- Standards of Learning (SOL) Integration



DIVISION & SCHOOL POLICIES

- Student Code of Conduct
- Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policies
- Restorative Practices Frameworks
- MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports)



BEST PRACTICE FRAMEWORKS

- CDC Stop Bullying Technical Package
- PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports)
- CASEL SEL Competencies
- Trauma-Informed Approaches



CORE AREAS SUPPORTED

- Safe & Supportive School Climate
- Equity and Inclusion
- Student Voice and Leadership
- Mental Health and Well-Being
- Academic Success

HOW LVL UP PUTS POLICY INTO PRACTICE



1. IDENTIFY

Use policy and data to identify needs and set clear goals.



2. IMPLEMENT

Deliver evidence-based training, curriculum, and student-led strategies.



3. ALIGN

Ensure practices align with policies, procedures, and frameworks.



4. MEASURE

Monitor outcomes and progress using consistent metrics and feedback.



5. IMPROVE

Use data to refine strategies and strengthen policy implementation.



POLICY PROVIDES THE FOUNDATION.
LVL UP PROVIDES THE ACTION.



Aligned policies.
Unified efforts.
Stronger schools.
Stronger students.
Stronger futures.

Policy Alignment

Guided by VDOE Model Policy:

- Mandatory Reporting
- Parent Notification Requirements
- Investigation Procedures



WHAT IS LVL UP INITIATIVE?

LVL Up Initiative is a student-centered, research-based framework designed to **prevent** bullying, **restore** relationships, and **build** a culture of respect, safety, and connection in schools.

WE EMPOWER SCHOOLS TO:



PREVENT BULLYING

Proactive strategies, education, and awareness that stop bullying before it starts.



AMPLIFY VOICE

We give students, staff, and families the voice and tools to speak up and be heard.



BUILD CONNECTION

Strengthen relationships and foster a sense of belonging for every student.



TRANSFORM CULTURE

Create safe, supportive, and inclusive school environments where everyone can thrive.



OUR FOCUS

Research. Relationships. Real Change.



Students at the Center



Data-Informed Strategies



Positive School Climate



Measurable Impact



WHEN WE **LEAD**. WHEN WE **LISTEN**. WHEN WE **LINK**.

WE **LVL UP** TOGETHER.





LVL FRAMEWORK OVERVIEW

LEADERSHIP. VOICE. LINK.

A comprehensive, research-based framework that empowers schools to **prevent** bullying, **build** relationships, and create safe, supportive environments where every student can thrive.



OUR FOUNDATION



Safe & Supportive School Climate



Relationships at the Center



Equity & Inclusion



Research & Data-Informed



Collaboration & Partnership



TOGETHER, WE LVL UP.

Building a culture of respect, safety, and connection where every student can **LEARN. LEAD. THRIVE.**





LEVERAGE: USING SOCIAL POWER

INFLUENCE. INSPIRE. DRIVE CHANGE.

Leverage is the intentional use of social power—the ability to influence others through **relationships**, **trust**, and **collective action**—to create **positive change**.

-Biblical stewardship of social power (Mather & Jones, 2025)

WHAT IS SOCIAL POWER?

Social power isn't about control—it's about influence. When we build strong relationships and unite around a common purpose, we can shift norms, open doors, and create opportunities for ourselves and others.



HOW LEVERAGE WORKS



1. CONNECT
Build authentic relationships and expand your network.



2. INFLUENCE
Share your voice, ideas, and values to inform and inspire others.



3. MOBILIZE
Bring people together around a shared vision or goal.



4. ACT
Take collective action that drives meaningful change.



5. AMPLIFY IMPACT
Create ripple effects that strengthen your community and inspire others.

EXAMPLES OF USING SOCIAL POWER



Encouraging peers to make positive choices



Speaking up for someone being treated unfairly



Rallying others to support a school or community initiative



Mentoring and empowering others to lead

THE POWER OF WE



When we leverage our social power, we don't just create change for ourselves—we create change for everyone. Together, we build a culture of **respect**, **connection**, and **opportunity** where every student can thrive.



YOUR NETWORK IS YOUR POWER.



**CONNECT. INFLUENCE. ACT.
LEVERAGE FOR GOOD.**



- (Hinduja & Patchin, 2022;
Stetzer, 2023)

WHAT IS BYSTANDER ACTION?

Bystander action means recognizing when something is wrong and choosing to do something about it.

You don't have to do it alone. But you can make a difference.



**YOU HAVE THE POWER
TO CHANGE THE OUTCOME.**

VOICE: BYSTANDER ACTION

Your voice has power. **Your action makes a difference.**

Bystanders are not bystanders when they **use their voice**. When we speak up and stand up for others, we create safer, stronger, and more inclusive school communities.

5 WAYS TO USE YOUR VOICE



1. NOTICE

Pay attention to what's happening around you.



2. SPEAK UP

Use your voice to support the person being targeted.



3. INCLUDE

Reach out and include others who may feel left out.



4. SUPPORT

Check in with the person and let them know they matter.



5. REPORT

Get help from a trusted adult if the situation doesn't stop.

SPEAK UP. STEP IN. MAKE AN IMPACT.



SEE IT
Notice what's happening.



SAY IT
Use your voice to speak up.



CHANGE IT
Your actions can change someone's day.



BETTER TOGETHER
Together, we build stronger, kinder communities.

WHY YOUR VOICE MATTERS



It shows **courage** and **leadership**.



It **supports** others and builds trust.



It creates a culture of **respect** and belonging.



It makes our schools safer for everyone.



USE YOUR VOICE. BE THE DIFFERENCE.
WHEN WE **SPEAK UP**, EVERYONE **WINS**.





- Rebuild relationships (Ministry of Reconciliation)
(Armor, 2021; Keller, 2021)

LINK: RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

CONNECT. HEAL. RESTORE. THRIVE.

Restorative practices focus on building **relationships**, repairing harm, and restoring **trust**. They create safe spaces for open dialogue, **accountability**, and **growth** for everyone involved.

WHAT ARE RESTORATIVE PRACTICES?

Restorative practices are approaches that emphasize understanding, healing, and collaboration. They address the impact of harm, involve everyone affected, and work toward solutions that strengthen our community.



CORE PRINCIPLES

- Respect Everyone
- Focus on Relationships
- Inclusive & Collaborative
- Accountability & Growth

THE RESTORATIVE PROCESS



EXAMPLES OF RESTORATIVE PRACTICES



THE RESULT

- Stronger Relationships
- Safer School Climate
- Increased Trust & Belonging
- Better Outcomes for All



RESTORATIVE PRACTICES BUILD STRONGER RELATIONSHIPS, HEAL HARM, AND CREATE SCHOOLS WHERE **EVERYONE** CAN THRIVE.





CYBERBULLYING FOCUS

BE KIND ONLINE. BE RESPECTFUL. BE THE DIFFERENCE.



Cyberbullying is **real bullying** that happens through digital devices. It can happen anytime, anywhere—and the impact can last. We all have the **power** to stop it and **support** each other.

- (Hinduja & Patchin, 2022)

WHAT IS CYBERBULLYING?

Cyberbullying is using technology to harm, harass, threaten, embarrass, or exclude someone on purpose. It can happen on:



WHAT YOU CAN DO

- SPEAK UP**
Don't engage. Tell a trusted adult.
- BLOCK & REPORT**
Use tools to block the person and report harmful behavior.
- SUPPORT OTHERS**
Be kind. Reach out. You can make a difference.

EXAMPLES OF CYBERBULLYING

<p>MEAN OR HURTFUL MESSAGES</p> <p>Sending or posting hurtful, threatening, or embarrassing messages.</p>	<p>SPREADING RUMORS OR LIES</p> <p>Posting or sharing false or private information about someone.</p>	<p>EXCLUDING OR ISOLATING OTHERS</p> <p>Deliberately leaving someone out of online groups or conversations.</p>	<p>SHARING PRIVATE INFORMATION</p> <p>Posting someone's private photos, videos, or personal details without permission.</p>	<p>IMPERSONATION</p> <p>Pretending to be someone else to hurt or embarrass them.</p>
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DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP: THINK BEFORE YOU...

<p>POST Is it kind?</p>	<p>SHARE Is it necessary?</p>	<p>SEND Is it respectful?</p>	<p>COMMENT Is it helpful?</p>	<p>Your actions online have real-life impact. Choose respect.</p>
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GET HELP

- If you or someone you know is experiencing cyberbullying, talk to a trusted adult.
- Report to the platform where it happened.
- You are not alone. Help is available.

THE IMPACT

- Emotional distress, anxiety, and depression
- Damage to self-esteem and confidence
- Strained relationships and isolation
- Harm to academic performance and well-being

THE IMPACT ON AI

- AI can be used to create deepfakes and fake content
- Non-consensual sharing of images or voice cloning
- AI-generated hate, threats, or harassment
- Erodes trust and safety online
- Can cause real emotional and reputational harm



WE RISE TOGETHER—ONLINE AND OFFLINE.
BE RESPECTFUL. BE RESPONSIBLE. BE THE DIFFERENCE.











- (Bradshaw & Waasdorp, 2023)



VTSS ALIGNMENT









LVL Up Initiative is aligned with the Virginia Tiered Systems of Supports (VTSS). Together, we build **safe**, **supportive**, and **inclusive** learning environments where every student can **thrive**.

WHAT IS VTSS?	HOW LVL UP INITIATIVE ALIGNS WITH VTSS	HOW LVL UP SUPPORTS VTSS
VTSS is a framework that uses a multi-tiered approach to support the academic , behavioral , and social-emotional success of all students.  ALL MEANS ALL	TIER 3 INTENSIVE INTERVENTIONS  LVL Up supports targeted, individualized interventions through restorative practices, student leadership, and meaningful connections to address complex needs. FOR STUDENTS WITH HIGHER LEVELS OF NEED	 Safe & Supportive Environments
	TIER 2 TARGETED SUPPORTS  LVL Up builds skills, strengthens relationships, and creates a positive school climate through peer support, mentoring, and small group strategies. FOR STUDENTS AT SOME RISK	 Positive Relationships & Connections
	TIER 1 UNIVERSAL SUPPORTS  LVL Up promotes a culture of leadership, voice, connection, and belonging for all students and staff—every day, everywhere. FOR ALL STUDENTS	 Student Voice & Leadership
		 Restorative Practices & Accountability
		 Data-Informed Decisions

STRONGER TOGETHER

When LVL Up Initiative and VTSS work together, we create a continuum of support that empowers every student to **connect**, **grow**, and **succeed**.

 SAFETY  CONNECTION  VOICE  GROWTH  SUCCESS





DISCIPLINE SHIFT

FROM PUNISHMENT TO PURPOSE. FROM REACTION TO RESTORATION.

LVL Up Initiative supports a shift in school discipline to build **safer**, more inclusive, and **supportive** learning environments where every student can **learn, grow, and belong**.



CHANGE THE **APPROACH**.
CHANGE THE **OUTCOME**.

FROM: PUNISHMENT



FOCUS: WHAT WENT WRONG

Looks backward to assign blame and deliver consequences.



APPROACH: REACTIVE

Responds to behavior after it occurs with rules and punishment.



IMPACT: EXCLUSION

Leads to suspensions, removals, and lost instructional time.



RESULT: SHORT-TERM COMPLIANCE

Addresses behavior in the moment but doesn't change outcomes.

TO: SUPPORT



FOCUS: WHAT HAPPENED & WHAT'S NEEDED

Looks forward to understand, repair, and meet needs.



APPROACH: PROACTIVE & RESTORATIVE

Builds relationships, teaches skills, and prevents harm.



IMPACT: INCLUSION

Keeps students engaged, connected, and supported.



RESULT: LONG-TERM GROWTH

Builds skills, changes behavior, and improves outcomes.

THE IMPACT OF THE SHIFT



Safer & more inclusive school environments



Stronger relationships and trust



Improved student well-being and belonging



More learning, less lost time



Equitable outcomes for all students

HOW WE MAKE THE SHIFT



Build Relationships
Connect with students and families.



Teach & Practice Skills
Build social, emotional, and decision-making skills.



Use Restorative Practices
Repair harm, restore relationships, and rebuild trust.



Provide Support
Meet needs and remove barriers to success.



Reflect & Improve
Use data and feedback to guide continuous growth.



DISCIPLINE ISN'T JUST ABOUT **CONSEQUENCES**—IT'S ABOUT **CONNECTION**.

When we shift our approach, we **change outcomes** and create schools where every student can **thrive**.





THREAT ASSESSMENT CONNECTION



OUR SHARED GOAL:
Identify concerns early, provide the right support, and prevent harm—so students and schools can thrive.

LVL Up Initiative and Threat Assessment work hand in hand to promote **safety**, **support**, and **success** for every student.

- (Cornell, 2024)

WHAT IS THREAT ASSESSMENT?

Threat assessment is a **proactive, problem-solving** process that helps schools **identify, evaluate, and respond** to threats of violence or harm.



Identify. Evaluate. Support. Prevent.

HOW LVL UP INITIATIVE CONNECTS TO THREAT ASSESSMENT



LEVERAGE

Using Social Power

Builds a culture where students look out for one another and report concerns early.

SUPPORTS:
Early identification and reporting



VOICE

Bystander Action

Empowers students to speak up and seek help when they see something concerning.

SUPPORTS:
Information sharing and help-seeking



LINK

Restorative Practices

Creates relationships and trust—key factors in getting students the help they need.

SUPPORTS:
Engagement, connection, and support



INCLUSIVE CLIMATE

Belonging & Respect

Reduces risk factors by promoting belonging, respect, and positive school climate.

SUPPORTS:
Prevention through connectedness



SUPPORT & GROWTH

Student Well-Being

Ensures students have access to the right support to heal, grow, and succeed.

SUPPORTS:
Intervention and long-term support

WHY IT MATTERS



Improves school safety and reduces risk.



Builds trust and strengthens student relationships.



Connects students to support before a crisis.



Promotes mental health, well-being, and learning.



Helps every student succeed and thrive.

HOW IT WORKS TOGETHER



Notice & Report
Students, staff, or families notice concerning behavior and report it.



Assess & Gather
The threat assessment team gathers information and evaluates the concern.



Collaborate & Plan
The team collaborates to determine risk level and create a plan for support and safety.



Provide Support
Connect the student and family to appropriate supports and monitor progress.



Promote Safety
Follow up, adjust supports, and continue building a safe, supportive environment.



WHEN WE WORK TOGETHER—USING THE POWER OF LVL—
WE **IDENTIFY** CONCERNS EARLY, PROVIDE THE RIGHT **SUPPORT**, AND **PREVENT** HARM.
STRONGER CONNECTIONS. SAFER SCHOOLS. BRIGHTER FUTURES.





VANGUARD SIGNAL TEAM



Spotting concerns **early**. Taking action **together**.
Supporting **safety, connection**, and student success.



OUR PURPOSE

The Vanguard Signal Team helps identify and respond to early signs of student concerns so we can connect students to support before issues escalate.

WHO WE ARE



A school-based team of caring adults from across the school community who work together to notice, talk, and act.

- ✓ Administrators
- ✓ Teachers
- ✓ School Counselors
- ✓ School Resource Officer
- ✓ Nurses / Health Staff
- ✓ Support Staff
- ✓ Community Partners (as needed)

HOW WE WORK



1. IDENTIFY
Notice changes in behavior, sharing, or situations that may signal concern.



2. COMMUNICATE
Share observations quickly and respectfully using our signal system.



3. COLLABORATE
Review information together, gather context, and determine next steps.



4. ACT & CONNECT
Connect students and families to the right support and follow up.

WHAT WE LOOK FOR



Changes in behavior, mood, or social withdrawal



Concerning talk, posts, or written/drawn content



Increased conflict, isolation, or relationship concerns



Digital activity or searches that raise concern



Safety concerns or threats to self or others



When in doubt, reach out.
It's always better to connect early.

OUR SIGNAL SYSTEM

A simple, secure way to share concerns so we can respond early and effectively.



Submit a Signal

Report a concern using our secure system.



Team Review

The team reviews the signal and gathers more information as needed.



Support & Follow Up

We connect the student to support and monitor progress.



All signals are handled with care, confidentiality, and respect.

WHY IT MATTERS



Catches concerns early—before they become crises



Connects students to help when they need it most



Builds a culture of trust, care, and shared responsibility



Supports learning, well-being, and student success



Stronger together. Safer today. Brighter tomorrow.



WE SEE IT. WE SHARE IT. WE SOLVE IT—TOGETHER.

Vanguard Signal Team: Everyone plays a part in keeping our school community safe and supportive.





IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

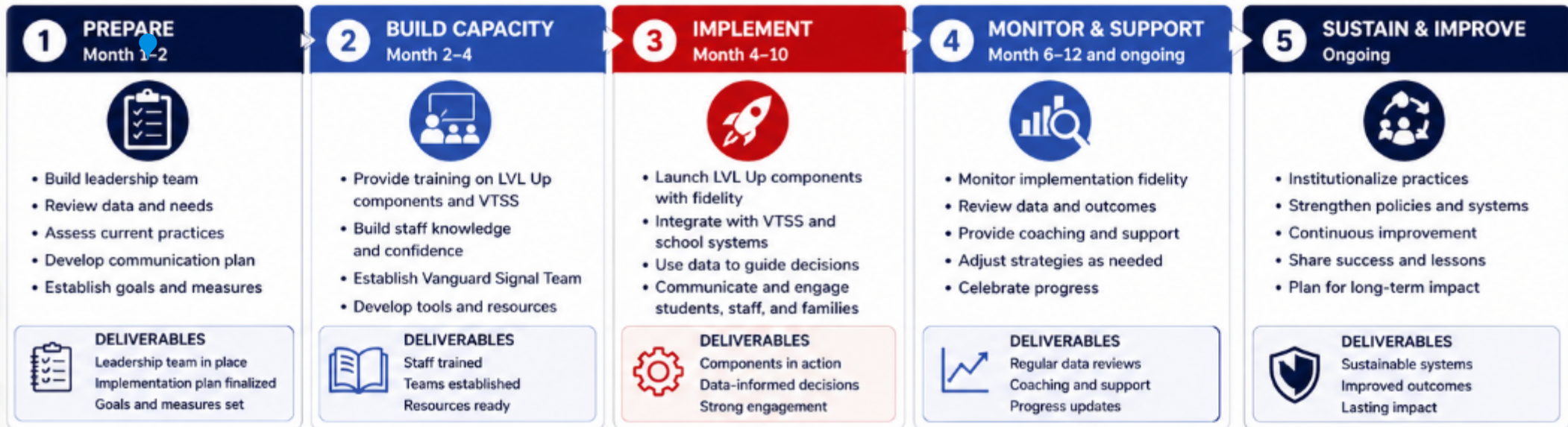
A CLEAR PLAN. SHARED RESPONSIBILITY. LASTING IMPACT.

The LVL Up Initiative will be implemented with fidelity, monitored for effectiveness, and continuously improved to ensure **safe, supportive, and inclusive** schools where every student can **thrive**.



OUR VISION

Every student is known, connected, supported, and empowered to learn, grow, and thrive.



FOUNDATIONS FOR SUCCESS



LEADERSHIP

Strong, visible leadership drives implementation and culture.



COLLABORATION

Everyone has a role. We work together as one community.



COMMUNICATION

Clear, consistent, and two-way communication builds trust and buy-in.



DATA

We use data to inform decisions and improve outcomes.



EQUITY

We ensure access, opportunity, and support for every student.

MEASURING SUCCESS

- ✓ Improved school climate and connectedness
- ✓ Decreased behavioral incidents and exclusionary discipline
- ✓ Increased student voice and sense of belonging
- ✓ Stronger relationships among students and staff
- ✓ Improved academic engagement and outcomes

WE ALL HAVE A ROLE



STUDENTS

Speak up.
Support others.



STAFF

Notice. Act.
Support.



FAMILIES

Partner.
Stay connected.



COMMUNITY

Collaborate.
Make a difference.



STRONGER TOGETHER. BRIGHTER FUTURES.

A **clear** plan. A **shared** commitment.
A **positive** impact for every student.



We will implement with fidelity, monitor with intention, and improve continuously—so every student can **learn, grow, and thrive**.



MONITORING & DATA

MEASURE WHAT MATTERS. UNDERSTAND OUR IMPACT. IMPROVE TOGETHER.

We use data to guide decisions, monitor progress, and ensure the LVL Up Initiative creates **safe**, **supportive**, and **inclusive** schools where every student can thrive.



OUR GOAL

Use accurate, timely, and meaningful data to improve outcomes for every student—every day.

WHAT WE MONITOR



Safety & Well-Being
Threats, discipline, and safety concerns



Climate & Culture
Belonging, relationships, and school climate



Voice & Engagement
Student voice, feedback, and participation



Supports & Practices
Restorative practices, MTSS/VTSS, and support use



Outcomes
Attendance, achievement, behavior, and growth

HOW WE USE DATA



1. COLLECT

Gather data from multiple sources consistently and ethically.



2. ANALYZE

Look for patterns, trends, and areas of priority.



3. INTERPRET

Understand what the data is telling us about students.



4. ACT

Make informed decisions and implement targeted strategies.



5. REFLECT

Monitor results, adjust as needed, and improve.

DATA SOURCES



School Data Systems
(Attendance, Behavior, Grades)



Safety & Threat Reports



Surveys & Feedback



Student Voice



Program & Practice Implementation

DATA DASHBOARD EXAMPLE

Office Discipline Referrals (ODRs) YTD



Student Sense of Belonging (Survey)



Chronic Absenteeism YTD



Restorative Practices Used



We disaggregate data by student groups to ensure equity and close opportunity gaps.

DATA GUIDES OUR DECISIONS



Identify Needs
Pinpoint areas of strength and opportunity



Target Supports
Focus resources where students need them most



Track Progress
Monitor implementation and student outcomes over time



Ensure Equity
Examine data by groups to ensure fair access and outcomes



Report & Communicate
Share data transparently with staff, students, and families.

OUR DATA PRINCIPLES

- ✓ Student-centered: Data is about improving lives.
- ✓ Ethical: We protect privacy and use data responsibly.
- ✓ Equitable: We look at all groups, not just overall numbers.
- ✓ Actionable: Data leads to action and real change.
- ✓ Collaborative: We all play a role in data-informed decisions.



WHEN WE MONITOR WITH PURPOSE, USE DATA WISELY, AND ACT TOGETHER,
WE CREATE **SAFER**, **STRONGER** SCHOOLS WHERE EVERY STUDENT CAN THRIVE.





EXPECTED OUTCOMES

STRONGER CONNECTIONS. SAFER SCHOOLS. BRIGHTER FUTURES.

The LVL Up Initiative is designed to create meaningful, lasting change by focusing on **prevention**, **connection**, and **support**—so every student can learn, grow, and **thrive**.



OUR COMMITMENT

We are committed to measurable outcomes that improve lives, strengthen schools, and build a better future for every student.

WHAT WE CAN EXPECT



SAFER SCHOOLS

Fewer incidents and threats. More students feeling safe.

- ✓ Reduced fights, bullying, and threats
- ✓ Fewer office discipline referrals and suspensions
- ✓ Stronger safety perceptions



STRONGER CONNECTIONS

Improved relationships and sense of belonging for all.

- ✓ Increased student connectedness
- ✓ Stronger relationships with adults and peers
- ✓ More student voice and engagement



IMPROVED WELL-BEING

Better mental health, emotional support, and overall well-being.

- ✓ Improved sense of belonging and hope
- ✓ Reduced chronic absence and stress
- ✓ More students accessing support early



BETTER LEARNING

Students are engaged, attending, and ready to learn.

- ✓ Increased attendance and on-time arrival
- ✓ Fewer disruptions in classrooms
- ✓ Higher academic achievement



EQUITABLE OUTCOMES

Fair and consistent practices for every student.

- ✓ Reduced disproportionality in discipline
- ✓ More inclusive and culturally responsive practices
- ✓ All students have access to support and success



LONG-TERM IMPACT

Sustainable change that leads to brighter futures for every student.

- ✓ Strong school climate and culture
- ✓ Lower dropout rates
- ✓ Students graduate prepared for life

HOW THESE OUTCOMES ARE ACHIEVED



Proactive systems identify and address concerns early.



Restorative practices build relationships and repair harm.



Student voice and belonging drive engagement.



Data-informed decisions ensure resources reach those who need them most.



Families and community partners strengthen our support network.



Continuous improvement sustains growth and measurable results.



TOGETHER, WE CREATE SCHOOLS WHERE EVERY STUDENT CAN LEARN, GROW, AND THRIVE.

Stronger today. Better tomorrow. Brighter futures for all.





KEY TAKEAWAYS

LVL UP INITIATIVE: WHAT MATTERS MOST

When we work together—using the power of **LVL**—we create **safe**, **supportive**, and **inclusive** schools where every student can thrive.



1. SYSTEMS OVER REACTIONS

- ✓ Bullying prevention requires **intentional systems**, not just discipline.
- ✓ Sustainable change comes from **structure + consistency**.



2. STUDENTS ARE THE DRIVERS

- ✓ Student **voice** is essential, not optional.
- ✓ Peer influence (**Leverage**) is the most powerful change agent.



3. CONNECTION CHANGES OUTCOMES

- ✓ **Relationships** reduce risk.
- ✓ Restorative practices build **trust**, **belonging**, and **accountability**.



WHEN WE **LEVERAGE** INFLUENCE,
AMPLIFY **VOICE**, AND RESTORE **RELATIONSHIPS**—
WE DON'T JUST RESPOND TO BEHAVIOR, WE TRANSFORM CULTURE.





PARENTS & GUARDIANS: HELPFUL & USEFUL LINKS



We're in this **together**. These trusted resources can help you support your child's well-being, safety, and success.

TOPICS & RESOURCES		
	MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT Find information and support for stress, anxiety, depression, and overall mental well-being.	Visit: www.nami.org
	PARENT GUIDANCE & SUPPORT Tips and tools to support your child's development and navigate challenges.	Visit: www.cdc.gov/parents
	ONLINE SAFETY Help keep your child safe online and understand digital citizenship.	Visit: www.common SenseMedia.org/parents
	BULLYING PREVENTION How to recognize, respond to, and prevent bullying.	Visit: www.stopbullying.gov
	ACADEMIC SUPPORT Resources to help your child succeed in school and beyond.	Visit: www.khanacademy.org/parents
	COMMUNITY RESOURCES Local programs and services for families in our community.	Visit: www.211.org

QUICK ACCESS		
Mental Health Support 	Parent Guidance & Support 	Online Safety
Bullying Prevention 	Academic Support 	Community Resources

QUESTIONS? NEED HELP?
Contact your school counselor, administrator, or visit our school website for more information.



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OpenAI. (2026). *AI-generated infographic on bullying prevention* [Image]. ChatGPT.