

## Expanding the Core Expectations

The Solanco Expectations initiative, established in 2012, has evolved as the District has progressed in its efforts to ensure a safe and supportive learning environment.

In the summer of 2015, the all building administrators convened the first of what would be an annual summit to analyze our progress and needs regarding the school environment. This involved analysis of statistics, evaluation of programs and initiatives, and development of new programs and initiatives. Each building, then, was required to revise and enhance its anti-harassment/discrimination/bullying plans for the upcoming school year.

This is an annual improvement process that continues to this day.

The 2017 summit notably involved the “50 New Ideas” enterprise, which established the goal of implementing 50 new and creative programs to combat discrimination at the elementary, middle, and high school level.

While the Core Expectations of Respect, Responsibility, Courage, and Kindness inform our practices, the Solanco Stands Together Initiative was borne from these action meetings. The Core Expectations were translated into four actionable components to frame the district’s efforts:

1. Committing to Kindness
2. Reporting Bullying
3. Intervening
4. Supporting Each Other

### Part 1: Committing to Kindness

Students who develop healthy peer relationships have good support mechanisms as they grow and mature. For some, this may be a struggle. Solanco has developed programs to encourage students to demonstrate kindness to each other, which includes the basics of how to make friends, how to include others, and how to effectively respond to conflict. There are a number of programs designed to reinforce this commitment to collective kindness toward others, including recess “Buddy Benches,” the Kindness Rocks Campaign, the Lifeguard League, PRIDE Ambassadors, Lunch Buddies, and Link Crew, among many others.

### Part 2: Reporting Bullying

A crucial part of an anti-bullying program is to make sure bullying incidents are reported. It is essential that bullying be reported to an adult at the school district. Solanco schools provide a number of ways for students or parents to report bullying, and bullying reports can come from parents, students who witness the bullying behavior, or students who are being bullied. These reporting mechanisms include the following: Lend-a-Hand Lockers, the online reporting form,

student surveys, Monday Morning Reflection Cards, or reporting directly to a teacher, counselor, or principal.

### Part 3: Intervening

Solanco has developed and implements numerous interventions to address and extinct bullying. These interventions include disciplinary consequences, in addition to or in conjunction with the following: response plans, counselor mediation, Cease and Desist tool, restorative practices, restorative mentorships, parent conferences, administrative conferences, hall monitors, and escorts.

### Part 4: Supporting Each Other

Schools implement “post-vention” programs to offer support after bullying has been addressed. These programs are designed to help ensure students continue to grow and thrive in the school environment. Among these programs are Anti-bullying pledges, anti-bullying assemblies, data collection/analysis, student mentoring, referrals to outside services, friendship groups, “Character Counts” lessons, Buddy café tables, “Just Checkin’ plans, and others.

Numerous initiatives developed from this, including Solanco High School’s “Solanco Stands Together,” the PRIDE 2.0 program at Solanco middle schools, and the “ABC” program at Solanco elementary schools.

The Solanco Stands Together Initiative has continued to progress and evolve, and has subsequently developed into the “Dignity Honored: Solanco Stands Together” which is further detailed on this website.

Additionally, a list of the programs/initiatives developed during this work is also detailed on this website.