Parents Get Louder! When Should the Victim's Parents Contact the School?

1. Write down the details of the bullying situations reported to you by your child. Note the dates and the names of the kids involved. Try to view the situation objectively and determine how serious it is.

2. Your child may resist your involvement if he fears retaliation by the bully. If so, explain to your child that most bullying situations require adult intervention to resolve the problem. Let your child know exactly whom you plan to talk to.

3. Contact school personnel for assistance in ending the bullying. First share the problem with your child's teacher(s), or your school's counselor. Work together to decide how to approach the problem.

4. If the teacher and counselor are unsuccessful in getting the bullying under control, go to the principal and make a formal request in writing. Request proof that the district's bullying policy has been enforced and restate your expectations that the bullying stop.

5. Do not contact the bully or the bully's family directly. Doing so will not help resolve the conflict and may cause an escalation.

6. Keep an ongoing log of the dates of any further bullying incidents and the actions you take to help your child deal with the bullying.

7. Inform the school of ongoing bullying incidents. If necessary, schedule another meeting with the building principal or the district's superintendant. Share your detailed log of what has been happening.