

# A Comprehensive Approach to Bullying Prevention



## Awareness and Prevention of School Based Bullying

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# Session Agenda



- What is bullying?
- Current anti-bullying laws
- The role of schools in responding to bullying
- What can parents do?
- Resources



# What is bullying?

Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior among school-age children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. Both kids who are bullied and who bully others may have serious, lasting problems.

In order to be considered bullying, the behavior must be aggressive and include:

- **An Imbalance of Power:** Kids who bully use their power—such as physical strength, access to embarrassing information, or popularity—to control or harm others. Power imbalances can change over time and in different situations, even if they involve the same people.
- **Repetition:** Bullying behaviors happen more than once or have the potential to happen more than once.

("What is Bullying" Stopbullying.gov.)



# Types of Bullying

01

## Verbal

- Teasing
- Name calling
- Threats and taunts

02

## Social

- Leaving someone out on purpose
- Spreading gossip and rumors
- Embarrassing someone in public

03

## Physical

- Hitting, punching, kicking
- Intentionally spitting (coughing)
- Taking and/or breaking someone else's things



*All bullying is aggression  
but all aggression is not  
bullying*



# Conflict vs. Bullying

## Conflict

Equal Power

Occasional

No harm intended

Equal Emotional Reaction

Not Seeking Attention

Willing to Solve Problem

## Bullying

Imbalance of Power

Repeats

Intentional Harm

Strong Victim Feelings

Often for Attention

Not Motivated to Find Solution



# WI Bullying Statistics

## WI Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)

Percentage of HS Students who were bullied on school grounds:

2009	2011	2013	2017	2019
22.5	24	22.7	24.2	22.3

Percentage of HS students who were cyberbullied:

2011	2013	2017	2019
16.6	17.6	18.3	17.4



# Wisconsin Anti-bullying Legislation

## Wisconsin State Statute 118.46

- Requires schools to create and implement an Anti-bullying policy and share it annually with all pupils, families, parents and guardians
- Requires DPI to create a model policy





# DPI Model Bullying Policy Requirements

- A definition of bullying
- A prohibition on bullying
- A reporting procedure
- A prohibition on retaliation
- A procedure for investigation
- Officials must report incidents and identify to whom reports are to be made



# DPI Model Policy Requirements (Cont.)

- A list of disciplinary alternatives
- Identify school related events at which the policy applies
- Identify property owned, leased, or used on which the policy applies
- Identify the vehicles used on which the policy applies



# What WI Stat 118.46 Doesn't Do

- **Require schools to adopt DPI Model Policy**
- **Require programming or curriculum**
- **Authorize DPI to monitor or intervene in district anti-bullying policies and programs**
- **Provide a state level complaint process**



# Role of Schools

Wisconsin is a local control state meaning:

- Aside from the legal requirement to have and share their anti-bullying policy, school districts will decide how to address bullying.
- School districts are responsible for implementing their policy



# What Can Schools Do?

**Develop a comprehensive approach to bullying including:**

- **Clear, concise and well communicated policies and procedures**
- **Selecting and implementing evidence-based programs and strategies**
- **Parent education and communication**



# What Can Schools Do?

- **Universal supports/build a Positive School Climate**

DPI Free School Climate Survey:

<https://dpi.wi.gov/slds/climate-survey-information>

- **Classroom instruction/may include SEL** <https://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/mental-health/social-emotional-learning>
- **Selected and Intensive supports**
- **Clear and accessible reporting systems**
- **Analysis and continuous improvement**

[Bullying Prevention Program Assessment Tool](#)



# What Can Schools Do?

- Be responsive to student and parent concerns
- Complete a fair and thorough investigation of bullying reports
- Separate students involved; interview bystanders
- Be as transparent as possible while maintaining FERPA compliance
- Approach parents, guardians and families as partners rather than adversaries



# What Can Schools Do?

## Direct Classroom Instruction

<u>Name</u>	<u>Evidence</u>	<u>Cost</u>
Olweus	Evidence-based	~\$16,000 per 500
LifeSkills	Current Study	~\$1,000 per teacher
ACT Now	Pre/Post Tests	FREE





# What Schools Should Avoid

- Encouraging the bullied and the student bullying to “work it out”
- Putting students together to work it out. Restorative Practices approaches for bullying have the potential for increasing harm. Caution is required with this approach
- Making assumptions about the situation without proper investigation



# Pupil Non-Discrimination Program

**If the bullied child is being discriminated against due to his/her disability (or other protected class status):**

**Follow the protocol outlined in the Pupil Non-discrimination Program**



# Pupil Non-discrimination Program

**Wisconsin state statute 118.13 states no pupil may be excluded from a public school, or from any school activities or programs, or be denied any benefits or treated in a different manner because of:**

**sex, race, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, parental status, marital status, sexual orientation, physical disability, mental disability, emotional disability, or learning disability.**

[DPI Pupil Non-discrimination Program](#)



# What Can Parents Do?

- Watch for [warning signs](#) that your child may be bullied
- Reach out to the school to ask for help. Connect with a school psychologist, counselor or social worker
- Follow the chain of command if your concerns are not being addressed
- Approach the school as a partner rather than an adversary
- Ask the school to develop a plan, with you, to provide an outline of how future incidents may be avoided or handled



# What to Avoid As A Parent

- **Confronting the parents or family of the student who is bullying**
- **Asking for specifics about other students involved. Schools are bound by state and federal law and cannot legally share that information**



# Next Steps for Schools

- **Review the District Bullying Prevention Policy**

Does it require any modifications or clarifications due the pandemic?

Do the bullying prevention policy and discipline policy align?

- **Collect and review data to get a clearer picture of the current situation (complete Climate Survey)**
- **Collaborate across stakeholder groups to identify the current needs and gaps in the district and community bullying prevention strategy**
- **Provide students with a universal curriculum that fits the school's needs**
- **Develop clear and well-communicated procedures for reporting bullying, investigating reports and communicating with families, students and staff**



# Dr. Chad Rose

## DPI Partnership with Dr. Chad Rose and the Bully Prevention Lab:

- Awareness and Prevention of School-Based Bullying Online Training Program
- **Coming Soon!** Bullying Prevention Toolkit:
  - Evidence-based Practices
  - Family Resources
  - Investigation Instruments
  - Reporting Instruments



Bully Prevention Lab  
University of Missouri



# Resources

[DPI Bullying Prevention](#)

[Stopbullying.gov](#)

[Youth with Disabilities and Bullying](#)

[NASP Bullying Prevention](#)

[Teaching Tolerance](#)

[PACER'S National Bullying Prevention Center](#)





# Questions

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