#### A Comprehensive Approach to Bullying Prevention



# **Awareness and Prevention of School Based Bullying**

**Brian Dean, Educational Consultant** 

**WI DPI** 

August 31, 2022



## **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**





All bullying is aggression but all aggression is not bullying





## Conflict vs. Bullying

<u>Conflict</u> <u>Bullying</u>

Equal Power Imbalance of Power

**Occasional** Repeats

No harm intended Intentional Harm

**Equal Emotional Reaction** Strong Victim Feelings

Not Seeking Attention Often for Attention

Willing to Solve Problem 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 <u>model policy</u>



## **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



# 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



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 <a href="https://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/mental-">https://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/mental-</a>

health/social-emotional-learning

- Selected and Intensive supports
- Clear and accessible reporting systems
- Analysis and continuous improvement

Bullying Prevention Program Assessment

Tool

- 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



#### **Direct Classroom Instruction**

Name <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 Nondiscrimination 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?

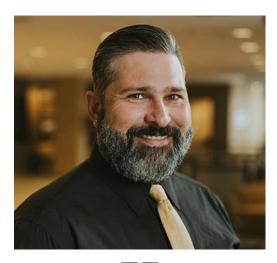
- Collect and review data to get a clearer picture of the current situation (complete Climate Survey)
- Collaborate across stakeholder groups to identify the current needs and gaps in the district and community bullying prevention strategy
- Provide students with a universal curriculum that fits the 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







#### Resources

**DPI Bullying Prevention** 

**Stopbullying.gov** 

**Youth with Disabilities and Bullying** 

**NASP Bullying Prevention** 

**Teaching Tolerance** 

**PACER'S National Bullying Prevention Center** 



# Questions



