

BULLYING PREVENTION STRATEGIES

Guidance for School Administrators

Best Practices for School Administrators

Focus on Positivity

A positive school environment reduces bullying. Have clear rules, consistent enforcement, but avoid strict discipline strategies.

Talk about Bullying

Having conversations with staff and students about bullying allows everyone to learn from each other and gives a clearer picture on what's going on within your school.

Train Your Team

Ensure your staff is educated on bullying prevention and your own policies. This allows for consistent responses to bullying and a cohesive effort across your staff body.

Stay in the Know

Gain information from your area on bullying, school climate, and youth violence. Search for areas or communities within your school that require more supervision or support.

Engaging with Your Community

Most school districts are required to develop anti-bullying policies due to state laws, which means you are facing the same challenges/demands as other administrators. It also means you can work alongside your peers to make new discoveries, provide or gain support, and collaborate on creating new solutions to the ever evolving issue of bullying. Furthermore, your educators want the best for their students and oftentimes want to intervene in bullying situations. If you work alongside them and give them the proper tools, preventing bullying in your school will be a far easier venture.



Understanding Your Relationship to Bullying and its Challenges

Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior among school-aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. Bullying includes actions such as making threats, spreading rumors, attacking someone physically or verbally and excluding someone from a group on purpose.

School administrators face many challenges on the day-to-day, and that is no exception when it comes to facing bullying. Preventing bullying should be a collaborative project; however, this brings about the typical issues that come with working with others. Your staff may have different ideas about what bullying is, the extent of bullying in your school, and/or finding time to participate in bullying prevention programs. Thankfully, this can be addressed with more training and cultivating the importance of bullying prevention. The other major issue is getting students to report bullying. There is a negative connotation to reporting to adults at school, e.g. snitching or tattling, and students also get concerned that there will be retaliation from their bullies. However, with your continued efforts and support, you can create a environment where your students have the confidence to stand up to bullying.

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