

Bullying

Protection of Minors on Campus



Warning Signs

- Unexplainable injuries
- Lost or destroyed clothing, books, electronics, or jewelry
- Frequent headaches or stomach aches, **feeling sick or faking illness**
- Changes in eating habits, like suddenly skipping meals or binge eating. Kids may come home from school hungry because they did not eat lunch.
- Difficulty sleeping or frequent nightmares
- Declining grades, loss of interest in schoolwork, or not wanting to go to school
- Sudden loss of friends or avoidance of social situations
- Feelings of helplessness or decreased self esteem
- Self-destructive behaviors such as running away from home, harming themselves, or talking about suicide

Source: www.stopbullying.gov

Cyberbullying

- Cyberbullying is the use of technology to repeatedly and intentionally harass, hurt, embarrass, humiliate, or intimidate another person.
- Cyberbullying can happen anywhere there is online social interaction. For example, some young people use social media, video games, texting, or anonymous apps to bully other youth, post embarrassing pictures, share private information, or send threatening messages. Students can use their access to a large online audience to encourage their peers to join them in targeting someone with gossip, rumors, and untrue stories.

[Cyberbullying - National Bullying Prevention Center \(pacer.org\)](http://pacer.org)

Why don't kids ask for help?

- Bullying can make a child feel helpless. Kids may want to handle it on their own to feel in control again. They may fear being seen as weak or a tattletale.
- Kids may fear backlash from the kid who bullied them.
- Bullying can be a humiliating experience. Kids may not want adults to know what is being said about them, whether true or false. They may also fear that adults will judge them or punish them for being weak.
- Kids who are bullied may already feel socially isolated. They may feel like no one cares or could understand.
- Kids may fear being rejected by their peers. Friends can help protect kids from bullying, and kids can fear losing this support.

Bystanders

- More than half of bullying situations (57 percent) stop when a peer intervenes on behalf of the youth being bullied (Hawkins, Pepler, & Craig, 2001).
- Youth bystanders are often aware of situations before adults in the school (Hawkins, Pepler, & Craig, 2001); it is therefore important that youth feel empowered to intervene safely in bullying situations.
- Programs can facilitate this behavior by cultivating a climate of respect and tolerance. Youth should be encouraged to stand up for one another and given opportunities to safely report bullying.
- Programs should also seek to ensure that bystanders are protected, and youth know not to put themselves in danger.

Prevention and Management of Bullying

- Every program serving minors on campus is responsible for providing a safe environment.
- Program Managers must ensure everyone participating in the program treats one another with equal respect.
- For all individuals, bullying is never an acceptable behavior.