

FACTS ABOUT BULLYING

Bullying is not normal teasing. Bullying is a learned behavior.

- **Per the American Medical Association:** “Bullying can damage kids as much as child abuse... infections or early sexual encounters or drug addiction.”
- **A survey in 2001 by the U.S Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** showed that 10,000 children stayed home from school at least once a month because they feared bullies.
- **Loneliness and poor peer relationships** are common for bullies and victims.
- **More than 33% of students live in fear of being victimized.**
5% of students report avoiding a place at their school for their own safety.
43% of 6th – 12th graders report avoiding the restroom because of fear.
- **Bullying produces more violence.** Of boys identified as bullies in second grade, 60% were convicted of a felony by age 24. Girl bullies were found to use more aggressive means of punishing their own children. (Norway 1991)
- **Eight students per minute attempt suicide** (Safe Schools, Safe Students).
- **The U.S. Secret Service** reported that three-quarters of the school shooters studied, “... described being bullied in terms that suggested that these experiences approached torment. These attackers told of behaviors, that if they occurred in the workplace, likely would meet legal definitions of harassment and/or assault.”
- ***Bullying will NOT stop without adult intervention.***

Because bullying is learned, schools can teach choices in behavior and skills, to: avoid victimization, intervene when witnessing victimization, and respond respectfully.

- **“Generally, schools that put more time and effort into anti-bullying measures, and that consulted widely in a whole school policy development, had the best outcomes in reducing bullying.” (Smith, 1997)**
- **50%, or greater reductions** have been reported by students who previously reported they were bullied or had bullied others (Olweus, 1994).
 - ***In Oakland County:*** 47% of schools implementing bully-proofing activities, responding to surveys, state **up to a 30% reduction in bullying behaviors.**
- **Increased Satisfaction** with school is reported (Olweus, 1994).
 - ***In Oakland County:*** When asked – *Do you feel safe in school?* 14% of students stated ‘no’. After one year of bully-proofing activities, students at the same school reported a **10% increase in feeling safe at school.** (Deerfield Elementary School, Avondale District, May 2001, 2002)