

Bullycide and the Law

Failing to protect our children from bullying has
a disastrous consequence:

Bullycide

<http://www.copperwiki.org/index.php/bullycide>

Definitions

- **Bullycide** is a new catchword that has become part of the **growing trend of bullying** in schools.
- Yet, **bullying** is still **dismissed** as a right-of-passage all children must pass through.
- There is bullying at **every stage** – at school, after school hours through stalking or **cyberbullying** (web bullying)

<http://www.copperwiki.org>

Related Facts

- **Repeat factor** which leads to bullycide.
- Bullying has a devastating impact on the **emotional and psychological** well being of victims.

- A **crime** with no **punishment**
- A repetitive crime – the victim is bullied **over and over**.

www.copperwiki.org/bullycide

Deadly Rumors

- Indirect aggression: spreading **rumors** which does the most damage.
- **Emotional aggression** can cause both victims and the perpetrators to have higher incidences:
 - Depression
 - Loneliness
 - Alienation
 - Emotional distress
 - Isolation

Research in the US found that **one-fourth** of American students are bullied at **school** because of their:

- Race
- Ethnicity
- Gender
- Religion
- Sexual orientation
- Disability

www.copperwiki.org/bullycide

Problems that Build Up

- The bullied are **less prone to violence** and have a **mature** understanding of the need to resolve conflict with dialogue rather than **violence**.
- These **values** are **exploited** by the bullies to torment their prey.
- Anger that **builds up** in the **targets**.
 - Uncontainable
 - Explodes into violence

High, Brenda. (2007)

The heightened emotional maturity of the targets makes them vent the anger upon themselves, resulting in depression, self-harm or **suicide.**

High, Brenda. (2007)

90% of students felt being bullied caused social, emotional, or academic problems. (Studies show, both bullies & victims have problems later in life because of bullying.

www.bullypolice.org

Bullycide is a frightening consequence and unless this problem is addressed with the seriousness it deserves.

**If we do nothing,
the teen suicide rate will undoubtedly increase.**

High, Brenda. (2007)

The Basics of Bullying

Bullying is most often used to describe a form of harassment perpetrated by someone who is in some way more powerful, physically or socially, than a weaker peer.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/bullying>

Forms of Bullying

- Psychological abuse
- Humiliation
- Intimidation
- Mobbing
- Hate speech
- Manipulation
- Stalking
- Cyberstalking
- Relational aggression
- Mind control
- Shunning
- Coercive persuasion
- Harassment
- Hate mail

Researchers generally accept that bullying contains four essential elements:

- the behavior is aggressive and negative;
- the behavior is carried out repeatedly;
- the behavior occurs in a relationship where there is an imbalance of power between the parties involved
- the behavior is purposeful

Cyberbullying

“Using the Internet or other mobile devices to send or post harmful or cruel text or image to bully others.”

“Nancy Willard, Director, Center for Safe and Responsible Internet Use”

Internet is preferred because it is anonymous (to an extent), it is accessible 24/7, and reaches *millions* of people (not to mention the students at your school). It is a part of this generation’s social lifeline.

Motivations

- Too much time on their hands
- Bored
- Anger
- Revenge
- Frustration

- Online bullying is not the same as schoolyard bullying.

Examples of Cyberbullying

- Engaging someone in IM and tricking that person into revealing sensitive info, and forwarding it to others
- Taking a picture of a person in the locker room using a camera phone then sending that picture to others
- Posting pictures of classmates online and asking students to rate them*

Cyberbullying Methods

- My Space/Facebook/Bebo/Formspring
- Instant Message
- Email
- Chat Rooms
- Blogs
- Text Messages
- Websites
- You Tube
- Others?

Exposure

The average adolescent has witnessed over 100,000 acts of violence in the media/TV (by the time they are 13 or 14)

Our children are becoming more and more desensitized.

Duty to Warn

Contact Law Enforcement immediately if Cyber-Bullying involves any of the following:

- Threats of violence
- Extortion
- Obscene or harassing phone calls, text msg
- Harassment, stalking, or hate crimes
- Child pornography

Texas Bullying Laws

Texas Bullying Law

- Texas is still listed as a “C-” grade for their bullying program (www.bullypolice.org)
- Texas does not have a cyber bullying law
- Bullying law hasn’t been updated since 2007
- Texas does not have an “anti-bullying” law listed under their Hazing section

Texas Law: Bullying/Harassment

Education Code 37.001 requires a districts code of conduct to prohibit bullying, harassment and making hit lists (2001).

Texas Law: Bullying/Harassment

Education Code 37.083 (1995) requires districts to ***adopt a discipline management program*** that includes the prevention of and education concerning unwanted physical or verbal aggression, sexual harassment and ***other forms of bullying in school, on school grounds, and in school vehicles.***

Texas Law: Bullying/Harassment

Education Code 25.0342 (2005) allows a parent or another person with authority to ***act on behalf of a student*** who is a victim of bullying (as defined in the code). The parent or person with authority may request to the board of trustees of a school district or the boards designee ***the transfer of a victim of bullying to another classroom at the campus, a different campus in the school district.***

New Laws to Be Introduced

- would **require school districts** to toughen their anti-bullying policies.
- would **provide training** for school district staff so they can better deal with bullying and mandate that districts report the number and types of bullying incidents to the Texas Education Agency.

Source:
<http://www.dailytexanonline.com/content/texas-anti-bullying-bills-introduced>

Reporting of Bullying

The reporting requirement would mandate school districts to determine if the bullying was a result of a student's race, ethnicity, religion or sexual orientation.

Source:
<http://www.dailytexanonline.com/content/texas-anti-bullying-bills-introduced>

Texas Addressing Cyberbullying

"bills were key to updating the state's anti-bullying laws to deal with the new phenomenon of using the Internet to bully"

Source:
<http://www.dailytexanonline.com/content/texas-anti-bullying-bills-introduced>

**At the local Level: Dallas ISD
Anti-Bullying Law 2011**

Dallas ISD - Bullying

- Dallas ISD was the first school district in Texas to include gay and lesbian students in their anti-bullying and hazing policy.
- The new law takes effect this Spring
- Reporting and punishment for violation of this policy is still under review.

Dallas ISD

The district began considering the policy after a recent nationwide spate of suicides by teenagers who had been bullied in school.

<http://www.dallasnews.com/news/community-news/dallas/headlines/20101119-dallas-isd-adopts-anti-bullying-policy-that-includes-protections-for-gay-students.ece>
www.dallasisd.org

Dallas ISD: Bullying

- The district's definition of bullying ranges from hitting, intimidation and flashing gang signs to making fun of students because of their national origin, family background, political beliefs and other reasons.
- It also includes provisions about cyberbullying and cyberstalking.

Case Study

Case Study

After constantly being bullied throughout his school life, "John" locked himself inside a staff's bathroom at his school, and committed suicide

“John’s” mother had visited the school many times to inform them about the situation, but according to her nothing ever changed.

One year after the death of their son, “John’s” parents filed a federal lawsuit against the School district. They claim that district employees — including the school's principal and other staff — failed to keep their son safe, ignoring warning signs and their complaints.

The school district on a public statement said that an internal investigation found that bullying was not connected to “John’s” suicide.

Questions to Consider

- Should school principal and staff be held liable for John's suicide?
- Do you think that bullying can be associated with negligence?
- Do you think that more strict laws against bullying and cyberbullying are the solution for this problem?

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Crisis Help Lines:
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