

Why KRS 158 Should Be Amended to Include Bullying Prevention

- 3.7 million youth engage in bullying each year (American Medical Association)
- 3.2 million youth are victims of moderate or serious bullying each year (American Medical Association)
- Bullying occurs in every school (20% or more are victims of bullying)
- Bullying happens every 7 minutes on elementary playgrounds (Pepler, Craig, and Roberts, 1998)
- 160,000 students per day stay home from school because of bullying (National Association of School Psychologists)
- 7% of eighth graders stay home at least once a month because of bullies (Banks, 2000)
- Bullying creates a fearful environment that impacts learning. Approximately 14% of 8th through 12th graders and 22% of 4th through 8th graders surveyed reported that bullying diminished their ability to learn in school; (Hoover and Oliver, 1996)
- A study by the National Threat Assessment Center found that in more than two thirds (2/3) of the 37 school shootings since 1974 the attackers felt “persecuted, bullied or threatened.” In over half, revenge was the motivation. (Bowman, 2001)
- Bullied children seek acceptance and a sense of belonging by joining and/or forming gangs, cults, hate groups, and drug groups.
- Bullying causes post traumatic stress in some victims (Kinchin, 2001)
- Bullying causes “toxic shame” that creates lack of trust and hopelessness (Garbarino, 1999)
- 30% of youth suicides are because of bullying (Hawker and Boulton, 2000)
- Victims often engage in self-mutilation “to release the pain of being bullied”
- 10% of dropouts do so because of repeated bullying (Weinhold and Weinhold, 1998)
- Bullying causes children to run away
- Bullying causes eating disorders
- Bullying causes low self-esteem
- Bullying causes withdrawal, depression, and anxiety disorders
- Bullying is a root cause of discipline problems: Bullied children often become behavior problems after the bullying and those problems get worse (Schwartz, McFayden-Ketchum, Dodge, Pettit and Bates, 1998)
- Bullying causes long-lasting harmful emotional effects (Olweus, 1993; McMaster, Connolly, Pepler and Craig, 1998) – may affect their work performance as adults
- Hostile kids are more likely to have diabetes and heart attacks in the future (Matthews, 2002)
- Hinders full inclusion of students with disabilities
- Bullying may even cause teen pregnancies – to have someone to love and to love them unconditionally
- Over 90% of school shootings involved young boys who were relentlessly tormented and bullied because they were considered unmanly or not aggressive enough. (Michael Kimmel)
- Bullying creates societal problems
 - Bullies identified by age eight are six times more likely to be convicted of a crime by age 24 and five times more likely than non-bullies to end up with serious criminal records by age 30 (Olweus, 1991)
 - 60% of students characterized as bullies by grade 6-9 had at least one criminal conviction by age 24 and 40% had three or more arrests. (Olweus, 1991)
 - Bullies grow up and often abuse their spouse, children and co-workers.

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