

# Kentucky Bullying Prevention

While October is National Bullying Prevention Month, this information can be used year-round to support students and to address bullying. The [Kentucky School Report Card](#), released in October of 2022 (data from 2022-23 has not yet been publicly released), shows there were 15,643 behavior events in the 2021-2022 school year classified as harassment or bullying. According to the [2021 Kentucky Incentives for Prevention](#) (KIP) survey, 26% of the students who completed the survey reported being the victim of bullying within the past twelve months.

Bullying is a major issue in schools, where [1 in 5 students now report experiencing bullying behavior](#). Students may be bullied for their physical appearance, race/ethnicity, gender, disability, religion, or sexual orientation, among other reasons.

The good news is that [research indicates that strong bullying prevention programs can help reduce bullying at school](#). These programs can help potential bullies recognize and stop their own behavior. They can also empower victims, giving them the support they need in the face of bullying.

## Kentucky's Definition of Bullying

[KRS 158.148](#) defines bullying as, “any unwanted verbal, physical, or social behavior among students that involves a real or perceived power imbalance and is repeated or has the potential to be repeated:

1. That occurs on school premises, on school-sponsored transportation, or at a school-sponsored event; or
2. That disrupts the education process.”

Research-supported bullying prevention is extremely important as victims and perpetrators of bullying are more likely to have lower academic achievement, lower attendance, and be more likely to drop out of school (Berthold & Hoover, 2000; Neary & Joseph, 1994). The Kentucky Department of Education can provide training in the evidence-based [Olweus Bullying Prevention Program](#). For more information, please contact [Deborah Sauber](#) (502-564-4772) at the Kentucky Department of Education.

## Resources for schools and teachers

- [This ready-to-go flyer from the National Bullying Prevention Center](#) can be used by schools to provide information and resources to families.
- [PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center Distance Learning Resources](#)
  - [PACER's Color Our Virtual World](#) – social media banners and badges to show support of Bullying Prevention
- [Teaching Tolerance Classroom Resources](#)
- [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – Stop Bullying](#)



Berthold, K. A., & Hoover, J. H. (2000). Correlates of bullying and victimization among intermediate students in the Midwestern USA. *School Psychology International*, 21(1), 65-78.

Neary, A., & Joseph, S. (1994). Peer victimization and its relationship to self-concept and depression among schoolgirls. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 16(1), 183-186.