

School Safety for Students

Everyone learns and does their best work when they feel safe, respected, and welcome in school.ⁱ You play an important role in making sure your school is safe and bully-free.ⁱⁱ You can help by being kind and respectful of everyone.

In 2017, more than 1 in 5 students ages 12–18 reported being bullied in school.ⁱⁱⁱ



In 2016, more than 1 in 3 students said they were bullied online.^{iv}



Although bullying happens in all grades, it occurs most in middle school.^v



Overall, 57 percent of bullying situations stop when a classmate helps the student being bullied.^{vi}



HOW TO HELP KEEP YOUR SCHOOL SAFE^{vii}

- 1 Treat everyone with respect and kindness.
- 2 Know the serious harm caused by teasing, spreading rumors, leaving someone out, and cyberbullying.
- 3 Use problem-solving—not revenge—to settle arguments.
- 4 Show your peers how to be kind and respectful to all students.
- 5 Work with your parents/caregivers to develop a safety plan.
- 6 Share any safety concerns—even if it is simply a feeling that “something is not right.”

WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE A SCHOOL SAFETY CONCERN^{viii}

- 1 Get help from an adult immediately if you see or know about an unsafe situation.
- 2 Support classmates who are feeling unsafe or being bullied.
- 3 Tell your classmate what is happening is not OK and that you want to help.
- 4 Make sure your classmate knows it is not their fault.
- 5 Help your classmate tell adults and get help.
- 6 Be a friend by walking your classmate to class or eating lunch with them.
- 7 Follow your safety plan if you don't feel safe.

Additional information about school safety

National Center on Safe and Supportive Learning Environments <https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/>

National Bullying Prevention Center <https://www.pacer.org/bullying/resources/facts.asp>

RESOURCES

- ⁱ Côté-Lussier, C., & Fitzpatrick, C. (2019). Feelings of safety at school, socioemotional functioning, and classroom engagement. *Journal of Adolescent Health, 58*(5), 543–550.
- ⁱⁱ Shriberg, D., Brooks, K., Jenkins, K., Immen, J., Sutter, C., & Cronin, K. (2017). Using student voice to respond to middle school bullying: A student leadership approach. *School Psychology Forum, 11*, 20-33. Retrieved from [https://www.nasponline.org/publications/periodicals/spf/volume-11/volume-11-issue-1-\(spring-2017\)/using-student-voice-to-respond-to-middle-school-bullying-a-student-leadership-approach](https://www.nasponline.org/publications/periodicals/spf/volume-11/volume-11-issue-1-(spring-2017)/using-student-voice-to-respond-to-middle-school-bullying-a-student-leadership-approach)
- ⁱⁱⁱ National Center for Educational Statistics. (2019). Student reports of bullying and cyberbullying: Results from the 2017 school crime supplement to the National Victimization Survey. US Department of Education. Retrieved December 10, 2019 from <https://nces.ed.gov/pubs2019/2019054.pdf>; Hinduja, S., & Patchin, J. (2019). *Cyberbullying: Identification, Prevention, & Response* (2019 edition). Cyberbullying Research Center. Retrieved from <https://cyberbullying.org/Cyberbullying-Identification-Prevention-Response-2019.pdf>
- ^{iv} Hinduja, S., & Patchin, J. (2019). *Cyberbullying: Identification, Prevention, & Response* (2019 edition). Cyberbullying Research Center. Retrieved from <https://cyberbullying.org/Cyberbullying-Identification-Prevention-Response-2019.pdf>
- ^v U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. (2019). *Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2018* (NCES 2019-047), Indicator 10. Retrieved December 10, 2019 from <https://nces.ed.gov/fastfacts/display.asp?id=719>
- ^{vi} Hawkins, D. L., Pepler, D. J., & Craig, W. M. (2001). Naturalistic observations of peer interventions in bullying. *Social Development, 10*(4), 512–527. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1467-9507.00178>
- ^{vii} Farrington, D. P., & Tofti, M. M. (2019). Examining the effectiveness of school-bullying programs globally: A meta analysis. *International Journal of Bullying Prevention, 1*(1), 14–31; Federal Commission on School Safety. (2018). Final report of the federal commission on school safety. Retrieved on December 2, 2019 from <https://www2.ed.gov/documents/school-safety/school-safety-report.pdf>; Hinduja, S., & Patchin, J. (2019). *Cyberbullying: Identification, Prevention, & Response* (2019 edition). Cyberbullying Research Center. Retrieved from <https://cyberbullying.org/Cyberbullying-Identification-Prevention-Response-2019.pdf>
- ^{viii} *ibid*