# School Safety
for Parents and Caregivers

Students learn and do their best work when they feel safe, respected, and welcome in school.[i] Parents and caregivers play an important role in making sure their child's school is safe and bully-free.[ii] You can help by learning how your child's school addresses safety and bullying—and teaching your child to be kind and respectful of others who may speak, look, and/or act differently than them.

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]
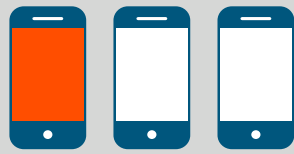
In 2009, 58 percent of teenagers said their parents were the biggest influence on what they considered appropriate use of the Internet or a cellphone.[v]

58%

HOW TO HELP KEEP YOUR CHILD SAFE IN SCHOOL[vi]

1. Know the serious harm caused by teasing, spreading rumors, leaving someone out, and cyberbullying.

2. Teach your child to use problem-solving—not revenge—to settle arguments.

3. Supervise your child's relationships and use of social media.

4. Teach your child what to do if they feel unsafe or bullied at school.

5. Talk to school administrators about their safety and communication procedures.

6. Share any safety concerns with your child's school—even if it is simply a feeling that "something is not right."

WHAT TO DO IF THERE IS A SCHOOL SAFETY CONCERN[vii]

1. Help your child get help immediately if you learn about an unsafe situation in school.

2. Advocate for your child if they are being bullied or feeling unsafe.

3. Tell your child what is happening is not OK and that you will help.

4. Make sure your child knows it is not their fault.

5. Help your child know how to tell adults about the school safety concern and how to get help.

6. Make sure supervision and support are in place to keep your child safe in school.

7. Record events and keep evidence, such as texts, blog posts, or written notes.

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

National PTA https://www.pta.org/home/family-resources/safety/School-Safety

REL NORTHWEST

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; Lacoe, J. (2016). Too scared to learn? The academic consequences of feeling unsafe in the classroom. Urban Education, https://eric.ed.gov/?id=ED556783

[ii] Berkowitz, R., Moore, H., Astor, R. A., & Benbenishty, R. (2017). A Research Synthesis of the Associations Between Socioeconomic Background, Inequality, School Climate, and Academic Achievement. Review of Educational Research, 87(2), 425-469. https://eric.ed.gov/?id=EJ1133356; Gregory, A., Cornell, D., Fan, X., Sheras, P., Shih, T., & Huang, F. (2010). Authoritative school discipline: High school practices associated with lower student bullying and victimization. Journal of Educational Psychology, 102, 483–496.

[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

[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] Lenhart, A., Purcell, K., Smith, A., and Zickuhr, K. (2010). Social media and mobile internet use among teens and young adults. Washington, DC: Pew Internet and American Life Project. https://eric.ed.gov/?id=ED525056

[vi] 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; 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

[vii] *ibid*