

Bullying In Our Schools

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Girl, 13, who hanged herself days after text calling her a 'slut' was forwarded to girls at her school 'sent the message herself'

- Rachel Ehmke killed herself after months of harassment and bullying
- But investigators announce they will NOT be filing any charges
- Father believes she sent the text so she would be kicked out the school
- Hanged herself at home after pretending she had homework to do
- 'Mean girls' had scrawled 'slut' on her locker and threatened her

By [Daily Mail Reporter](#)

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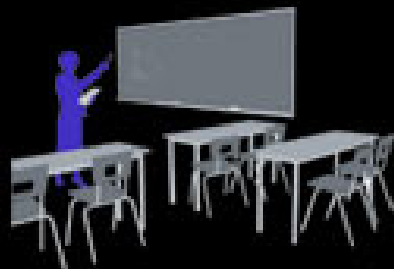


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STATS ON BULLYING



3 million students are absent each month because they feel unsafe at school.

280,000 students are physically attacked in secondary school each month.

1 in 4 teachers see nothing wrong with bullying and will only intervene **4%** of the time.



This year, over **13 million** American kids will be bullied at **school**, **online**, on the **bus**, at **home**, through their **cell phones** and on the **streets** of their towns, making it the most common form of violence young people face in this country.

77% of students are bullied mentally, verbally or physically.

every **7 minutes** a child is bullied on the playground.



nearly **42%** of kids have been bullied online and almost 1 in 4 have had it happen more than once.

Define Bullying

- ***Bullying is intentional, repeated and targeted aggressive behavior. Bullying can take the form of physical, emotional or verbal harassment and involves a real or perceived imbalance of power.***
- http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=jRiAchoVm9E#t=0 “Teen Bullying”

Wisconsin Act 309

- Bill was signed into law on May 12th, 2010 by Governor Doyle
- Helps facilitate cooperation between schools and law enforcement when students are involved in illegal or disruptive behavior
- Requires DPI to develop a model school policy on bullying by pupils, example below:

<http://sspw.dpi.wi.gov/files/sspw/pdf/bullyingprogram.pdf>

Wisconsin Act 309

Must Contain All of the Following

1. A definition of bullying (see previous example from a Wisconsin School District)
2. A prohibition of bullying
3. A procedure for reporting bullying that permits reports to be confidential
4. A prohibition against pupil retaliation against another pupil for reporting an incident of bullying

Components of Bullying Program

5. A procedure for investigating reports of bullying
6. A requirement that school district officials and employees report incidents of bullying and identify the persons to whom the reports must be made
7. A list of disciplinary alternatives for pupils that engage in bullying

Cont.

8. An identification of school-related events to which the policy applies
9. An identification of the property owned, leased, or used by the school district on which the policy applies
10. An identification of the vehicles used for pupil transportation on which the policy applies

DPI's Assistance

- Develop a model education and awareness program on bullying and post the model policy and model program on its internet site (www.dpi.wi.gov). School boards were to establish a policy by August 15th, 2010.

Bullying Awareness Day

- The bill designated the fourth Wednesday in September as “Bullying Awareness Day” for purposes of school recognition. Finally, the bill includes a section to make the provisions of the bill applicable to a first-class city school district and board.

School Survey Results

- TRICOR sent a survey to 30 school districts in Wisconsin and asked what were the top 5 things they were doing to reduce bullying in their school. The following are the top ten responses in no particular order:
 1. Bullying Prevention Curriculum Grades 3-5- Time to Act and Bullying Prevention Curriculum Grades 6-8- Time to React. Several comments on the Time to Act is really good curriculum from DPI

Top Ten Continued

2. Second Step is a researched-based curriculum. Noted the students really enjoy the role playing and the short vignettes with the curriculum.
3. It is very important parents, community and students understand the difference between bullying and natural conflicts. Valuable teaching time is lost due to false reporting.

4. Creation of student led anti-bullying groups
5. Gundersen Lutheran Pediatrics and Behavioral Health Department, along with Kohl's Cares is sponsoring a workshop this year called, "Together Against Bullying".
6. Several schools have a form of "Restorative Justice" programs tied into a progressive disciplinary process.
7. Bringing in an attorney to meet with the staff on the legal consequences of bullying
8. School Safety Box for anonymous reporting

9. “Connect with Kids” program. Each student is connected to an adult in the school to provide positive reinforcement and feedback
10. All schools stressed the importance of creating an open environment with students to report cases and having thorough documentation of all incidences. Stressing to parents to do the same.

How Are These Claims Covered?

- Must contact your insurance company to determine coverage
- Most likely covered under the Educators Legal Liability and/or Commercial General Liability policy, depending on the nature of the claim
- We have had claims covered in this area, most recent was a bullying case that is now being investigated by the Civil Rights Commission.

Additional Resources

- The Wisconsin Legislative Notification System
<http://notify.legis.state.wi.us/home.aspx>
- WASB Policy Division for sample policies, contact Nancy Dorman
- www.cyberbullying.us by Dr. Justin Patchin at UW-Eau Claire
- Department of Homeland Security www.dhs.gov
- Wisconsin School Safety Coordinators Association www.wssca.org
- www.peacebuilders.com
- www.bullyingstatistics.org
- www.stompoutbullying.org
- www.stopbullying.gov
- www.education.com
- www.bullypolice.org
- www.bullying.us
- <http://www.sears.com/anti-bullying-statistics/dap-12000000283435>