Due to many physical and emotional effects of bullying, it is important to report it. Consequences will be determined for the following:
- the failure to report bullying
- the failure to report bullying promptly
- false reporting of bullying

When you see something, do something.

**Risk Factors of Bullying**

According to a National Education Association survey on bullying, educators reported the top risk factors for being a victim of bullying to be:
- a student’s weight—over or under (23%)  
  gender (20%)  
  perceived sexual orientation (18%)  
  disability (12%)  

Other risk factors may include:
- Perceived as being different from others  
  - Perceived socioeconomic status  
    - Poor social skills  
    - Socially isolated/few friends

The basic premise is “perceived”. Perceptions can be dangerous. Perception is the difference in how we see or observe things.

We are all different.  
**Variability is a part of making ourselves unique.**  
Prevent bullying by educating students.

**Consequences:**

- the failure to report bullying
- the failure to report bullying promptly
- false reporting of bullying

**Resources:**

- **BCSC Bullying Policy** —  
  http://www.neola.com/bartholomew-in/

- **For Schools:**  
  http://www.stopbullying.gov/prevention/at-school/

- **For Elementary Students:**  
  http://www.pacerkidsagainstbullying.org/#

- **For Middle and High School Students:**  
  http://www.pacerteensagainstbullying.org/

**October is Bullying Prevention Month**

**BCSC**

**Bullying Education Resource**

This resource is provided to educate all stakeholders on bullying.

**Topics included are:**

- Indiana Code  
- Terms to Know  
- Types of Bullying  
- Reporting and Investigation  
- Consequences

Bullying can happen to anyone, anywhere!

Students alone may not be able to stop a bully; therefore, adult prevention and intervention is very important for students to work it out.
Bullying is defined for Indiana schools in HEA 1423.

Indiana Code 20-33-8-0.2 defines “Bullying” to mean:

Overt (intentional) unwanted, repeated acts or gestures including:

- **Verbal or Written communication**, or images transmitted in any manner (including digitally or electronically)
- **Physical acts** committed, aggression, or any other behaviors that are committed by a student or group of students against another student with the intent to:
  - Harass, ridicule, humiliate, intimidate, or harm the targeted student and
  - Create for the targeted student an objectively hostile learning environment

An “objectively hostile learning environment”:

- places the targeted student in reasonable fear or harm to the to the targeted student’s person or property;
- has a substantially detrimental effect on the targeted student’s physical or mental health;
- has the effect of substantially interfering with the targeted student’s ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, and privileges provided by the school

**In simple terms, bullying means:**

- Unwanted, aggressive behavior
- Repeated, or the potential for repeated, behavior
- Real or perceived power imbalance

**TERMS TO KNOW:**

- **Target** Or Victim: Student that has been bullied
- **Bullying Or Student Exhibiting Bullying Behavior**: Student that has been identified as exhibiting behavior that was determined to be bullying
- **Witness** Or Bystander: Student(s) that have observed another student being bullied.

**4 TYPES OF BULLYING:**

**Physical**: involves hurting a person’s body or possessions.

- Hitting/kicking/pinching
- Spitting
- Tripping/pushing
- Taking or breaking someone’s things
- Making mean or rude hand gestures

**Verbal**: saying mean things.

- Teasing
- Name-calling
- Inappropriate sexual comments
- Taunting
- Threatening

**Social/Relational**: involves hurting someone’s reputation or relationships.

- Leaving someone out on purpose
- Telling other children not to be friends with someone
- Spreading rumors (about someone)
- Embarrassing someone in public.

**Electronic or Written Communication**: bullying that takes place through the use of written messages or using various forms of electronic technology. This includes all forms of Cyber-bullying.

- Mean text messages or emails
- Rumors sent by email or posted on social networking sites (examples: Facebook, Twitter, etc.)
- Embarrassing pictures, videos websites or fake profiles

**What is NOT considered bullying?**

There are many other types of aggressive behaviors that do not fit the definition of bullying. They are not any less serious, and may require intervention. Some examples include:

- Peer conflict
- Teen dating violence
- Hazing
- Gang violence
- Harassment
- Stalking

**Reporting and Investigating:**

Be sure to promptly or immediately report any observed or alleged incident IN WRITING in order for an investigation to occur.

- An observed or alleged incident should be reported IN WRITING promptly and within the same day to school administrators or their designee. If a student reports an incident to you, but does not want to write out the report it is your responsibility to write it out for the student.

⇒ **Include in written report**: offense, date(s), location of the offense, identity of reported bully, identity of any witnesses

- Once a referral or anonymous report has been received, an investigation will be initiated within one school day
- If determined to be a bullying incident, the parents of both the target student and the bully will be notified in an expedited manner.
- If the nature of the incident is an illegal act, the incident will be reported to local law enforcement.