

Protecting Ohio's Families and Children
by

**Creating and Promoting Positive
School Climate in Ohio's Schools and
Communities**

Anti Harassment, Intimidation and
Bullying on the School Bus

October 19, 2011



Department
of Education

Illuminate Etiquette

- Questions? Place them in the chat window on the left for “This Room”.
- Please conduct your participation in a professional manner.
- A copy of the presentation will be provided for download at the conclusion of the webinar.

Anti HIB Webinar Training Objectives

The objective of **Ohio's Anti Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) Initiative** is to provide professional development, technical assistance and resources to multi disciplinary audiences to make the conditions right in schools and communities through the reduction of HIB in any form.

- Establish the problem of harassment, intimidation and bullying in various forms.
- Present policy, process and practices specific to Anti harassment, intimidation and bullying
- Provide National and State Resources to support Active Anti HIB Policy implementation at the local level.

School Bus Safety Week

- October 17-21 National recognition
- Began as a National Event in 1964
- Formerly recognized by the U.S. House of Representatives in 2007 as National School Bus Safety Week

School transportation staff, including parents, students, and administrators, continue to focus on and maintain a safe environment for school bus service.



Ohio School Buses

- 15,000 school buses
- Average of 1 million miles a day
- More than 200 million miles a year
- 1 million pupils transported daily
- Remains one of the safest environments for our students

During School Bus Safety Week, we continue to focus on all aspects of school bus safety, pedestrian and traffic safety, and once again on bullying on the school bus.



What Is Bullying?



“A problem behavior based on power relationships in which a student or a group of students uses power aggressively to cause emotional or physical pain and distress to another student.”

Bullying experiences include not only physical aggression but also verbal aggression, including teasing and taunting, spreading rumors, or socially rejecting and isolating another student.

Citations: 5, 7



Creating a **Safe and Respectful Environment** on Our Nation's School Buses



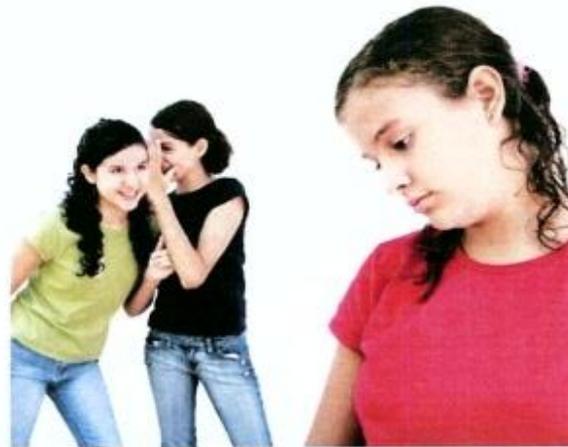
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Student Bullying



Of students ages 12 through 18 surveyed in the 2006–07 school year:

- A total of 31.7 percent report being bullied
- Of those, 8 percent say they were bullied on the bus



Citation: 3



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Impact of Bullying on Students



Students being bullied tend to report:

- Feelings of depression, anxiety, and isolation
- Low self-esteem
- Poor school performance
- Thoughts of suicide and suicide attempts

Students who bully tend to:

- Exhibit defiant and delinquent behavior
- Have poor school performance
- Be more likely to drop out of school
- Be more likely to bring weapons to school

Citation: 5



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Students Being Bullied



- Report losing items such as books, electronics, clothing, or jewelry.
- Have unexplained injuries.
- Complain frequently of headaches, stomach aches, or feeling sick.
- Hurt themselves.
- Lose interest in visiting or talking with friends.
- Are afraid of going to/from school or other activities with peers.
- Appear sad, moody, angry, anxious, or depressed.
- Talk about suicide.
- Suddenly have fewer friends.
- Avoid certain places.
- Act differently than usual.
- Want to sit near the driver.
- Want to sit with the same “safe” student or group of students all of the time (behind them, in front of them, or surrounded by them).
- Want to sit on the inside seat—not the aisle seat.

Citation: 15



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Students Who Bully



- Become violent with others.
- Get into physical or verbal fights with others.
- Get in trouble a lot, including being sent to the principal's office or detention.
- Have extra money or new belongings that cannot be explained.
- Are quick to blame others.
- Will not accept responsibility for their actions.
- Have friends who bully others.
- Need to win or be best at everything.
- Try to move near enough to the student being bullied to continue bullying—for example, the bullying student may move near enough so the student being bullied can hear remarks, be touched, or be bothered.
- Vie for attention, talk loudly, wave at the driver in the mirror, or move from seat to seat.
- Watch the driver and change seats to be near the student being bullied when the driver is at an intersection or watching the road.

Citation: 15



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What does this mean for student transportation?

- Bullying on a school bus is included in state laws (Revised Code 3313.666)
- Cyber bullying while students are on the bus is also included.
- Drivers have a responsibility to intervene when possible and to report.
- Districts need to provide training to Transportation Directors, bus drivers, and other related transportation staff.



Creating a Positive Bus Climate



Clearly establish with students your expectations for their behavior, what the specific rules are for riding the bus, and the reasons why those rules are in place.

Be firm with students but not tough.

Be courteous and not sarcastic.

Treat all students equally and fairly.

Be consistent.

Citation: 9



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Responding to Bullying Behaviors



Before getting on the bus:

- **Anticipate**—Time of day, time of year; keep a short, clear set of rules visible and talk about them once in awhile.
- **Understand**—Ages and stages of children in your bus.
- **Learn**—What to ignore and what to pay attention to.

Citations: 4, 11



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Responding to Bullying Behaviors



While the bus is in motion:

- Give verbal warnings, using students' names whenever possible.
- Call your school or supervisor.
- Avoid “stare downs” using the rear view mirror.

When the bus is stopped:

- Have students change seats.
- Talk with students who bully and/or are bullied. This should be done individually to avoid potentially re-igniting the bullying situation.
- Implement seat assignments based on district policy.
- Request assistance from school or teachers as appropriate.

Citations: 4, 11



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Responding to Bullying Behaviors



If student or driver safety becomes a concern:

1. Always follow district policies.
2. Stop the bus in a safe place out of traffic.
3. Secure the bus.
4. Stand up and speak clearly and calmly to the student(s) who are bullying another student or students.
5. Change the seat of the student who was bullying and/or the student being bullied, if needed, to a safe seat.
6. Never put a student off the bus except at school or at his or her residence or school bus stop.
7. When intervening, use caution not to challenge or provoke a student who is bullying because it may initiate further negative behavior.

Citation: 9



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Expectations

- School bus Drivers transport up to 70 students per bus per run
- Their focus is on operating a vehicle that weighs more than 30,000 pounds
- Student Behavior is only one of many responsibilities while operating the bus
- Drivers are not authorized to Administer Discipline
- Their means to intervene are limited
- They must rely on documentation and reporting

What Can Drivers Do?

FIRST:

- ❖ Stop and listen to the affected child
- ❖ Take complaints of bullying seriously

SECOND:

- ❖ Be responsive and intervene

THIRD:

- ❖ Follow district policy on bullying

FOURTH:

- ❖ Keep current and up-to-date
- ❖ Educate yourself!
- ❖ PS Manual Pg. 75-78, Internet

Interventions

PRAISE PUBLICLY

- ❖ Let the entire bus know you approve of someone's behavior
- ❖ Reward positive behavior

COUNSEL QUIETLY

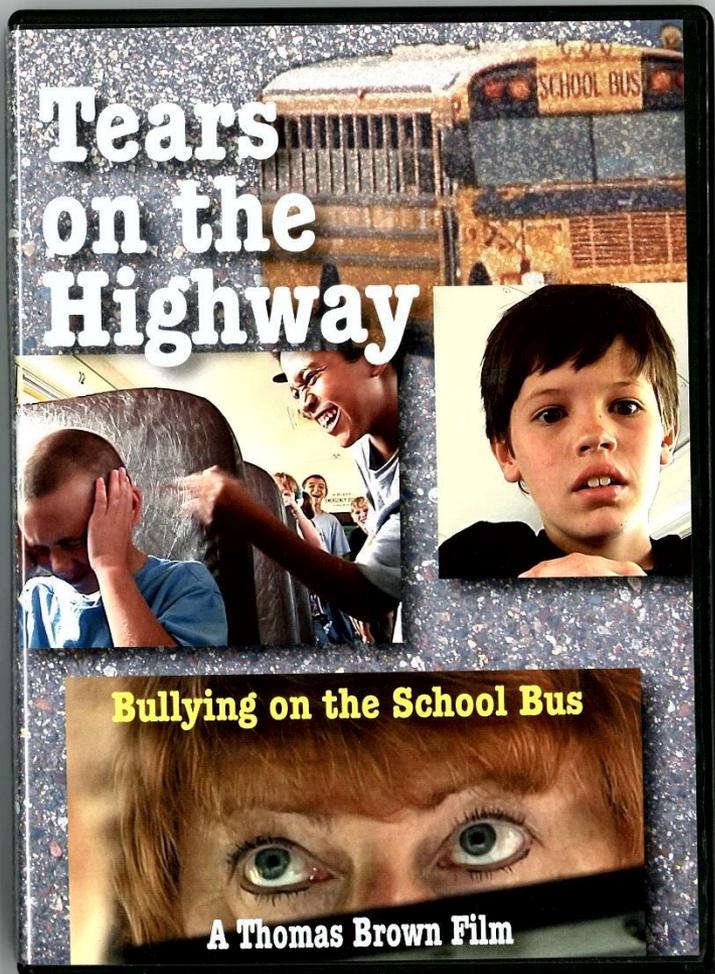
- ❖ Separate offenders from offendees
- ❖ Enforce expectations
- ❖ Involve Parents and Administrators.

Driver's Interventions:

- Always talk with students who have been bullied, student who bully and bystanders
- Assure them that you take bullying seriously and you will follow school policies
- Counsel students who have been bullied to tell their parents and then follow-up according to school policy
- Remind students who bully about the rules and consequences

Steps to Bully-proof the bus

- Know your district's policies on bullying
- Assign seats
- Have an older student sit with the student being bullied
- If there is more than one student bullying, break-up the group
- Be assertive and remind bully behavior will not be tolerated
- Talk to the students who bully in private
- Remind them of consequences
- If possible, talk with parents/guardian directly
- Talk with school principal and the supervisor
- Obtain all information needed to address problem
- May need to “pry” information from bullied student
- Listen closely to concerns
- Treat all reports seriously and document them
- All Bullying must be reported; document who, what, where, when



MEDIA that is
specific to Ohio's
Pupil
Transportation
include:

"Tears on the
Highway"

by
Zanesville City
Schools
and
Thomas Brown
Broken Toy Project
2007

Ohio

Department
of Education

Resources

- U.S. Department of Education Safe and Supportive Schools

- Anti-Bullying Training Available

Included are two PowerPoint modules complete with trainer's guide, posters and other reference components: "See Something. *Do Something: Intervening in Bullying Behavior*," and "Creating a Supportive Bus Climate: *Preventing Bullying*."

-Module 1 is now available; Module 2 will be released **June 17**. For copies visit www.napt.org

- Dad Who Stormed Bus Speaks Against Bullying

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jyN5crxjL-M&feature=fvsr>

- Bus Bullying Tips from The Stand Up Against Bullying Guy

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QCyCTC_Ev5Y

The next webinar in this series:

Topic: Cyber Safety Intervention

Date: November 2, 2011

Time: 3:00 pm

URL: Visit www.ode.state.oh.us use Search Term “Bullying Resources” Click the Topic link to access an Anti-HIB webinar

Anti HIB Webinar Evaluation

Please click the link below
to complete the evaluation
for this Anti HIB Webinar

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/3MTWLWY>

Thank you for your time

Ohio Department of Education
Quality School Choice and Funding,

Pupil Transportation Section

1-614-466-4230 Office

1-877-644-6338 Toll Free

schoolbus@ode.state.oh.us



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