
Did you have to deal with a bullying incident today? No school is immune from bullying and it can have daunting effects on a school’s climate. This book, while it doesn’t endorse specific prevention and intervention programs, offers useful strategies for schools to implement.

The authors’ review of the literature and research is compelling and enlightening. In the onset of the book, the authors refute the concept that “once a bully, always a bully” or “once a victim, always a victim.” Students move in and out of these roles. In fact, throughout the book the authors note the dynamic interplay between being a bully or victim. The authors offer case studies that assist readers in identifying issues they might already experience or will deal with regarding bullying.

Swearer et al. note the characteristics of bullying in elementary, middle, and high schools. Conceptually, the authors discuss eight common myths about bullying. For example, they note that bullying isn’t isolated aggression but rather is influenced by peers, families, schools, and communities. Youths “move in and out of various roles, depending on social-ecological conditions.” Another concept that orients readers is the 80/20 principle that indicates 20 percent of the students commit 80 percent of the bullying. If that is the case, the authors hold us to answering the question: Under what conditions does bullying occur? If we can answer this question then it behooves us to determine how to change the environment under which bullying happens.

Throughout the book the authors offer guiding questions as discussion points about societal, environmental, and familial issues regarding bullying. The questions are geared for readers to analyze what is currently occurring in their schools and then how to address the specific issues. The authors discuss using data-based decision-making to combat bullying and offer a 10-point rubric that helps guide decision-making.

*Bullying Prevention and Intervention* is a well-crafted book that principals, faculties, students, and parents can read together and use as they address bullying. The examples and strategies support discussions that can be individualized for their school.

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