

# Parents...

All EACS students and staff agree to join together to stop bullying in our schools. Your child's school has planned activities throughout the school year to increase bullying awareness, including an anti-bullying pledge for students and staff.

We encourage your support of this effort to ensure all students have a safe learning environment.



## Resources

In an effort to provide information regarding bullying, East Allen County Schools utilizes several resources, such as:

McMillen Center for Health Education  
Fort Wayne, In

[www.olweus.org](http://www.olweus.org)

[www.stompoutbullying.org](http://www.stompoutbullying.org)

[www.rachelschallenge.org](http://www.rachelschallenge.org)

**S**upport students who have been or are being bullied

**T**alk to teachers/staff about incidents, concerns or issues related to bullying.

**A**lways treat everyone with respect, despite differences.

**N**ever standby or join in;

**D**o something if I see or hear of bullying.

**U**nderstand it is everyone's job to stop bullying;

**P**rotect our school and community by taking a stand against bullying.

### East Allen County Schools Position Regarding Bullying

It is the intent of EACS to provide all students with an equitable opportunity to learn. EACS is committed to providing a safe, positive, productive, and nurturing educational environment for all of its students. Bullying is detrimental to students' learning and achievement. It interferes with the mission of our schools to educate our students and disrupts the operations of the school. Bullying affects not only the students who are targets but also those who participate and witness such behavior.

EACS policy applies to bullying that takes place at school or on school grounds, at any school-sponsored activities or events, or while students are transported to or from school or school-sponsored activities or events. It also applies to bullying that occurs at any other time or place that substantially disrupts the instructional program, operations of the school, or welfare of students.

East Allen County Schools  
1240 State Road 930 East  
New Haven, Indiana 46774

# What Is Bullying?

EACS defines bullying as any repeated hurtful pattern of physical acts or gestures, or any verbal, written, or electronically communicated expression that:

1. A reasonable person should expect will have the effect of:
  - a. Physically harming a student or damaging a student's property;
  - b. Placing a student in reasonable fear of physical harm or damage to his/her property; or
2. Is so severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, hostile educational environment for the student who is bullied.

## Bullying is NOT:

- A rite of passage;
- A normal part of childhood;
- Only a teen problem
- Conflict. **It is abuse.** It involves people who are not similar in strength.

# Who Is Involved?

## Students Who are Bullied (Target):

Students deserve to feel safe at school. But when they experience bullying, students may experience:

- Depression
- Low self-esteem
- Health problems
- Poor grades
- Suicidal thoughts

## Students Who Bully (Bully):

Students who intentionally bully others should be held accountable for their actions. Those who bully their peers are also more likely than those students who do not bully others to:

- Get into frequent fights
- Steal and vandalize property
- Drink alcohol and smoke
- Report poor grades
- Perceive a negative climate at school
- Carry a weapon

## Students Who Standby (Bystander):

Students who see bullying happen also may feel that they are in an unsafe environment.

Bystanders may feel:

- Fearful
- Powerless to act
- Guilty for not acting
- Tempted to participate

# Types of Bullying

- Physical—harming another person's body
- Verbal—name calling, offensive remarks, mocking, put-downs
- Social/Emotional—spreading rumors, gossiping, excluding
- Cyber—threatening email/text messages, social media



## Reporting Bullying

Any student or parent who believes s/he has been or is currently the target of a bully should immediately report the situation to the building principal or assistant principal. The report may also be made to a teacher or counselor who will be responsible for notifying the appropriate administrator.

Every student is encouraged, and every staff member is required, to report any situation that they believe to be bullying behavior directed to another student.