Talk With Your Child
Why Students Might Not Tell

Students may:
• Fear an “overreaction”
• Feel judged
• Be embarrassed
• Find it hard to talk about anything
• Feel ashamed
• Feel responsible
• Think it does no good
• Worry they won’t be protected
• Think it’s not macho
• Decide adults don’t care

Link to ADVICE GONE WRONG
Talk With Your Child
Does Your Child Recognize Bullying?

Questions to ask your child:

• Do you think the other student hurt you on purpose?
• Was it done more than once?
• How did it make you feel? (sad, scared, angry?)
• Did it make you feel unsafe?
• Is the other student stronger or more powerful in some way? (physically, socially, etc.)

(Adapted from “Your Child: Bully or Victim? Understanding and Ending Schoolyard Tyranny.” Peter Sheras, Ph.D., 2002)
Encourage Self-advocacy
“You Are Not Alone”

Provide your child with affirmations that:
• You Are Not Alone
• You Have the Right to Be Safe
• You Have Options
Encourage Self-Advocacy

Student Action Plan

A printed booklet for parents to use with their child, to help them think through potential steps to take in a bullying situation.
Cyberbullying

• Have the cyberbullying conversation.

• Set cyber safety rules.

• Know what your children are doing online.
Take Action if Your Child is the Bully

1. Talk with your child.
2. Consider if the behavior is disability-related.
3. Teach empathy, respect, and compassion.
4. Make your expectations clear.
5. Provide clear, consistent consequences for bullying.
6. Teach by example.
7. Role play.
8. Provide positive feedback.
10. Seek help.
Role of An Active Bystander

Bystanders can help students who are bullied by:

- Spending time with the student being bullied
- Trying to get the student away from the situation
- Listening to the student being bullied
- Telling the student that no one deserves to be bullied
Dear Colleague Letter (10/26/10)

• The Numbers
• Disability Harassment
• Federal Laws
• Schools’ Duties
• Template Letter
• Using the Individualized Education Program (IEP)
• Filing A Complaint
• Peer Advocacy
The Numbers

• Bullying of children with disabilities is significant, although few studies exist to document it.

• The studies that have been published found that children with disabilities were two to three times more likely to be bullied than their nondisabled peers.
Disability Harassment

According to a July 25, 2000 Dear Colleague letter from the Office for Civil Rights and the Office for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS) in the U.S. Department of Education, “States and school districts also have a responsibility under Section 504, Title II, and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), which is enforced by OSERS to ensure that a free appropriate public education (FAPE) is made available to eligible students with disabilities. Disability harassment may result in a denial of FAPE under these statutes.”
Federal Laws that Apply to Disability Harassment

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (often referred to as ‘Section 504’) and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Title II) are the federal laws that apply if the harassment denies a student with a disability an equal opportunity to education.

The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) enforces Section 504 and Title II of the ADA. Students who meet the Section 504/ADA definition of disability would qualify for these protections, including students who have a record of a disability or are regarded as having a disability.
Template Letter
504 and IEP

- “Student with an IEP, Notifying School About Bullying”
- “Student with a 504, Notifying School About Bullying”

are template letters for parents who have a child with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504.
Using the Individualized Education Program (IEP)

The Individualized Education Program (IEP) team, which includes the parent, can identify strategies that could be written into the IEP to help stop the bullying.

It may be helpful to involve the child, when appropriate, in the decision-making process, since this can improve the likelihood of the student meeting the IEP goals.
Filing A Complaint

Parents who believe their student’s rights have been violated can file a COMPLAINT of DISCRIMINATION with:

• Office for Civil Rights or
• Department of Justice
Parents who believe their child has been denied the right to a free, appropriate education (FAPE) can file a complaint with their state educational agency.
Peer Advocacy

A bullying prevention initiative designed to reduce bullying of students with disabilities by engaging, educating, and empowering designated peers to advocate for specific students with disabilities.
Handouts, Activities, Events, And More
Bullying Prevention,
It’s Everyone’s Responsibility!