P3 Campus

We all recognize that bullying is a serious problem. From the headlines to the classrooms to the kitchen tables, we see it, but we can't seem to stop it. Worse yet, often adults can't readily identify it. P3 Campus will bring a lot of instances of bullying to light. The role of schools then is to handle these cases carefully and properly. Improperly addressing these cases can, at best, have no effect or, at worst, exacerbate the situation and mask social and emotional needs of the perpetrator.

> "**P3 Campus will bring instances of bullying to light.**"

Despite our best efforts and intentions, combatting bullying has proven non-intutive. However, developments in research have yielded some valuable findings. Effective solutions must build on evidence-based recommendations and strive for new ways to understand complex problems. Below details some of the ways intutive responses to bullying situations have been counterproductive.

From "Misdirections in Bullying Prevention and Intervention" by StopBullying.gov:

Zero Tolerance Policies

Many schools and school districts have "zero tolerance" or "three strikes and you're out" bullying policies. These policies suspend or expel children who bully others. However:
- Recent surveys of elementary and middle school students show that about one in five students admit to occasionally bullying their peers (Melton et al., 1998). Even if policies address only physical bullying, the number of children affected by zero tolerance policies is significant.
- The threat of suspension or expulsion may discourage children and adults from reporting bullying.
- Bullying can be an early indicator of other problem behaviors. Children who regularly bully their peers are at risk of unexcused absences, fighting, theft, and vandalism. These children need positive role models, including the adults and students in their school.

Although suspension and expulsion may be necessary in a small number of cases, they should not be the standard bullying prevention or intervention policy.

Conflict Resolution and Peer Mediation

Conflict resolution and peer mediation are common strategies for dealing with issues between students. Because of this, schools may use these methods to address bullying problems. However:
- Bullying is not a conflict; it is a form of victimization. Like those who experience child abuse or domestic violence, children who are bullied are victimized.

Conflict Resolution and Peer Mediation

- Using mediation to address bullying may send the wrong message to students—for example, "You are both partly right and partly wrong," or, "We need to work out the conflict between you." The message to a child who is bullied should be, "No one deserves to be bullied, and we will do everything we can to stop it." The message for children who bully should be, "Your behavior is inappropriate, and you must stop it."
- There is no evidence that conflict resolution or peer mediation stops bullying.

Group Treatment for Children Who Bully

Some schools use group therapy to address bullying behavior. This therapy teaches children who bully how to manage anger while building skills, empathy, and self-esteem. Although these programs have the best intentions, students' behavior may get even worse. Group members tend to serve as role models for each other, which typically reinforces antisocial or bullying behavior.

Simple, Short-Term Solutions

Schools often adopt short-term bullying prevention and intervention approaches that don't address the entire issue. For example, bullying may be the topic of a staff in-service training, a PTA meeting, a school-wide assembly, or lessons taught by individual teachers. Although each of these efforts is an important piece of a bullying prevention and intervention strategy, none of these alone is sufficient. Because of that, they are not likely to significantly reduce bullying problems. To reduce the prevalence of bullying, the school's climate and its exceptions for student behavior must change.

Data shows that bullying is the second most commonly reported concern. P3 Campus brings about positive school climates, where students trust adults and share information to help solve their concerns.

Now, P3 Campus does not offer any quick fix to this multidimensional epidemic. What it does offer, however, is the ability to identify more bullying situations and to try new approaches in eliminating them and building stronger, more secure students.

an adult was notified in only

40%

of bullying incidents

finding from "Indicators of School Crime and Safety" (2012)

What we must recognize is that though there is an ostensible victim in bullying situations, it is in fact both who suffer. The more readily we can identify students who exhibit bullying behavior, the closer we can get to unpacking and unraveling what leads to the behavior, precluding future harm.