

HEA 1423

Anti-Bullying Law Community Meeting

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By the numbers...

According to the Centers for Disease Control's 2011 Youth Risk Behavior Survey:

- **Indiana ranks 3rd in the nation** for incidences of electronic bullying and bullying on school property
- **1 in 4 students** had been bullied at school during the past 12 months prior to the survey
- **1 in 5 students** had been bullied electronically during the past 12 months prior to the survey
- **1 in 20 youth** did not go to school in the past 30 days prior to the survey for fear of safety at school or going to and from school
- **Long Term Impact:** Studies from the National School Safety Center reported that **60 percent** of students who were identified as school bullies ended up with a criminal record by age 24.



The Voiceless...

Students reach out to an adult in only about 1/3 of the cases of bullying...why is that?

- Students do not perceive that teachers or adults in the school will do anything.
- Don't want to be perceived as weak or a "tattletale"
- Fear of **retaliation** from bully
- Feelings of humiliation make children **ashamed** to tell adults
- May already feel socially isolated and **believe no one cares** or can understand
- Fear of **rejection** by peers
- Parent reaction



HEA 1423 Timeline

- Enacted July 1, 2013.
- TVSC School Safety Specialists, Scott Backus and Jon Hutton, attend IDOE information seminar on HEA 1423 – September 5th
- The ISBA policy language was accepted October 1, 2013
- TVSC Policy initial reading October board meeting
- TVSC policy approved by the board in November
- Anti-Bullying programs take place with students in all TVSC schools before October 15th (LAW)
- Staff meetings on the new law took place for teachers in October
- Meetings are in the works for bus drivers and other support staff
- Community meetings - November



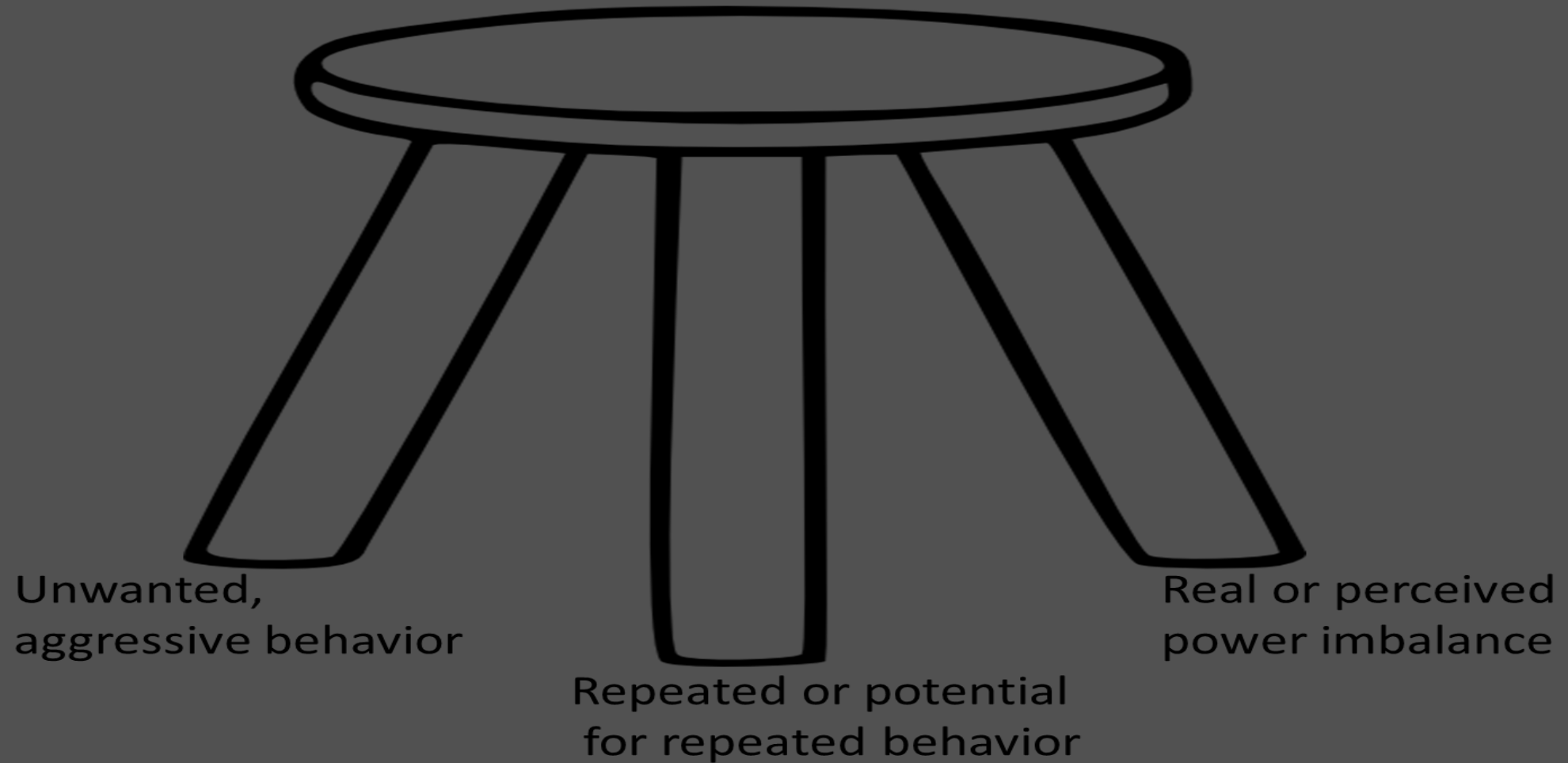
Bullying...The LEGAL Definition

IC 20-33-8-0.2 – “Bullying” means:

1. **Overt** (intentional) unwanted, **repeated** acts or gestures including:
 - Verbal or Written communication, or images transmitted in any manner (including digitally or electronically)
 - Physical acts committed, **aggression**, or any other behaviors that are committed by a student or group of students against another student **with the intent** to
2. Harass, ridicule, humiliate, intimidate, or harm the targeted student and
3. Create for the targeted student **an objectively hostile school environment**



Defining Bullying



What is NOT bullying?

There are many other types of aggressive behavior that don't fit the definition of bullying. **This does not mean that they are any less serious or do not require intervention.**

- *Peer Conflict →*
- *Harassment*
(What we see most)
- Teen Dating Violence
- Hazing
- Gang Violence
- Stalking



Conflict or Bullying?

Normal Peer Conflict	Bullying
Equal power or friends	Imbalance of power; not friends
Happens occasionally	Repeated negative actions
Accidental	Intentional
Not Serious	Serious with threat of physical and/or emotional harm
Equal emotional reaction	Strong emotional reaction from target and little or no reaction from bulier
Act wasn't to seek attention and/or power	Act intentional to gain power and/or attention
Remorse	No remorse
Shows effort to resolve problem/issue	No effort to solve problem/issue



Bullying TARGET Risk Factors...

- Perceived as “being different” from peers
- Perceived sexual orientation
- Perceived ability/disability level
- Perceived socioeconomic status
- Poor social skills
- Socially isolated/few friends
- Overweight/underweight
- Many more....basic premise of “perceived difference”



Why do students bully others?

Information about bullying suggests that there are three interrelated reasons why students bully.

1. Students who bully have strong **needs for power** and (negative) dominance.
2. Students who bully **find satisfaction** in causing injury and suffering to other students.
3. Students who bully are often rewarded in some way for their behavior with **material or psychological rewards**.



Effects on Targets

Kids who are bullied can experience **negative physical, school, and mental health issues**. Kids who are bullied are more likely to experience:

- Depression and anxiety, increased feelings of sadness and loneliness, changes in sleep and eating patterns, and **loss of interest in activities they used to enjoy**. These issues may persist into adulthood.
- **Health complaints**
- **Decreased academic achievement**—GPA and standardized test scores—and school participation. They are more likely to miss, skip, or drop out of school.
- A very small number of bullied children might **retaliate** through extremely violent measures. In 12 of 15 school shooting cases in the 1990s, the shooters had a history of being bullied.



Tippecanoe Valley School Corporation Anti-Bullying Policy



TVSC Bullying/Cyberbullying Policy: Indiana Code 20-33-8-0.2

1. Bullying committed by students toward other students is strictly prohibited. Engaging in bullying conduct described in this rule by use of data or computer software that is accessed through any computer, any computer system, or any computer network is also prohibited.

2. For purposes of this rule, bullying is defined as overt, unwanted, repeated acts or gestures, including verbal or written communications or images transmitted in any manner including electronically or digitally, physical acts committed, aggression, or any other similar behaviors that are committed by a student or group of students against another student with the intent to harass, ridicule, humiliate, intimidate, or harm the targeted student and create for the targeted student an objectively hostile school environment that:

- places the targeted student in reasonable fear of harm to the targeted student's person or property;
- has a substantially detrimental effect on the targeted student's physical or mental health;
- has the effect of substantially interfering with the targeted student's academic performance; or
- has the effect of substantially interfering with the targeted student's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, and privileges provided by the school.

3. This rule may be applied regardless of the physical location of the bullying behavior when a student committing bullying behavior and the targeted student attend a school within the school corporation and disciplinary action is reasonably necessary to avoid substantial interference with school discipline or prevent an unreasonable threat to the rights of other students to a safe and peaceful learning environment.

4. Any student or parent who has knowledge of conduct in violation of this rule or any student who feels he/she has been bullied in violation of this rule should immediately report the conduct to the building principal/assistant principal who has responsibility for all investigations of student misconduct including bullying. A student or parent may also report the conduct to a teacher or counselor who will be responsible for notifying the principal/assistant principal. This report may be made anonymously.

5. False reporting of bullying conduct as defined in this rule by a student shall be considered a violation of this rule and will result in any appropriate disciplinary action or sanctions if the investigation of the report finds it to be false.

6. A violation of this rule prohibiting bullying may result in any appropriate disciplinary action or sanction, including suspension and/or expulsion.

7. Counseling, corrective discipline, and/or referral to law enforcement will be used to change the behavior of the perpetrator. This includes appropriate intervention(s), restoration of a positive climate, and support for victims and others impacted by the bullying.



Keys to the policy...

#3 – RULE APPLIED REGARDLESS OF PHYSICAL LOCATION

- The school is the 24/7 police of the new law
 - ANYWHERE and ANYTIME
 - Requirement: Two students from the same corporation
- Cyberspace
 - Text
 - Social Media
 - False profiles
 - Snapchat
 - Gone in 10 seconds!
 - “Sexting” → Sending inappropriate pictures

#4 – REPORT IT!

- *Angry parent - “I’m so sick of this school doing nothing about my kid getting bullied!”*
- *Me – “To whom have you reported this problem?”*
- *Angry parent – “I didn’t call anyone because I thought my son could handle it.”*
- We cannot deal with what we don’t know about!
- Online Student/Parent Report Forms
- CALL/E-mail/Stop in



Addressing Bullying...

1. A report is filed and/or an issue is turned over to the office. *The new law has a required reporting component for staff.*
2. An investigation will be conducted by the school administrator.
3. The administrator will determine if we have a bullying case or another type of conflict.
4. **ALL reported cases are** and will continue to be addressed regardless of bullying or conflict.
5. If bullying:
 1. Disciplinary action will take place. *This can range from a first time warning to suspension depending on severity. "ZERO TOLERANCE" is not a component of the law or the TVSC policy.*
 2. Parents will be contacted for both the target and bullier. *By LAW, we cannot disclose the disciplinary action taken against another student, nor can we show parents video with other students in it.*
 3. Appropriate intervention will be determined for the target and bullier. *This can range from counseling to intensive behavioral health programing.*
 4. Repeated or initially violent bullying offenses will be dealt with differently. *Police involvement, legal charges, expulsion, etc.*



Areas of Concern in Our Schools

1. Cyberspace

1. Facebook – 13 years old
2. Phones – Text
3. Anonymous Social Media – Kik, Ask.fm, Creepy, Vine, Snapchat, Pheed, Qooh.me, Oovoo
No moderator, no legal authority, no names, no filters, NO WAY!

2. Areas with limited supervision

1. Restrooms
2. Locker rooms
3. Hallway passing periods
4. Bus/walk-home

3. Social Groups - Cliques



Addressing Our Reality at TVSC...

- WE HAVE BULLIES! ALL SCHOOLS DO...
- We address every issue of which we are made aware.
- The goal of disciplinary action is **improvement of behavior**, not merely punitive in nature.
- We take full advantage of our resource officer, Officer John Hart, SRO.
- **We care about your kids**
- **We work hard to make our schools safe for your students**
- **With your help, understanding, and action we can reduce bullying in our schools.**



Q & A

PLEASE address questions or concerns to my e-mail, listed below.

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Resources: Making Sense of the New Bullying Legislation
HEA 1423

Presented by Dr. Brandie Oliver

Butler University

