

# National Bullying Prevention Month

October is National Bullying Prevention Month. Let's look at bullying in Kentucky and how we can work together in order to prevent it. According to the [Kentucky School Report Card](#), there were 2,273 behavior events in the 2020-2021 school year classified as harassment or bullying. According to the [2018 Kentucky Incentives for Prevention \(KIP\) survey](#), 28% of the students who completed the survey reported being the victim of bullying within the past 12 months.

## Kentucky's Definition of Bullying

[KRS 158.148](#) defines bullying as: any unwanted verbal, physical or social behavior among students that involves a real or perceived power imbalance and is repeated or has the potential to be repeated that:

- That occurs on school premises, on school-sponsored transportation or at a school-sponsored event, or
- That disrupts the education process.

## Bullying Data

While the KIP survey data is enlightening, it may be necessary to dig deeper into your own school's data to determine the needs of your building. The Kentucky Department of Education's (KDE's) Quality of School Climate and Safety survey items can be found on [Open House](#) under the Learning Environment tab.

The [U.S. Department of Education provides access to free climate surveys](#) that can be used to collect data aimed at keeping your students safe and improving their learning environment. [Teaching Tolerance also has created a survey](#) to gauge the climate and safety in your schools and classrooms.

Research-supported bullying prevention is extremely important as victims and perpetrators of bullying are more likely to skip and/or drop out of school (Berthold & Hoover, 2000; Neary & Joseph, 1994). KDE can provide training on the evidence-based [Olweus Bullying Prevention Program](#). For more information, [email Safe and Supportive Schools Branch Manager, Deborah Sauber](#) or call her at (502) 564-4772.

## Resources for schools and teachers

- [PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center Distance Learning Resources](#)
  - [PACER's Color Our Virtual World](#) – social media banners and badges to show support of National Bullying Prevention Month
- [Teaching Tolerance Classroom Resources](#)
- [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services – Stop Bullying](#)

## References

Berthold, K. A., & Hoover, J. H. (2000). Correlates of bullying and victimization among intermediate students in the Midwestern USA. *School Psychology International*, 21(1), 65-78.

Percentage of students who reported bullying within the past year.

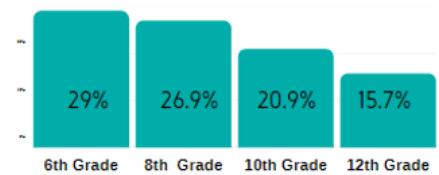


Figure 1 Kentucky data source: 2004-2018 KIP survey

Percentage of students who reported electronic bullying within the past year.

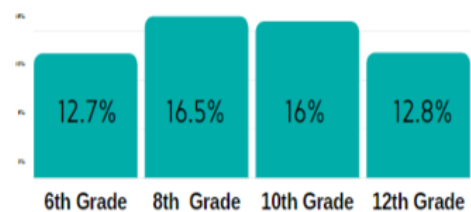


Figure 2 Kentucky data source: 2004-2018 KIP survey



Neary, A., & Joseph, S. (1994). Peer victimization and its relationship to self-concept and depression among schoolgirls. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 16(1), 183-186.

