



# BULLYING PREVENTION

## How to Report a Tip

 Call 713.222.TIPS (8477)

 Use our **Mobile App**  
Download app name: Crime Stoppers Houston

 Go to [crime-stoppers.org](https://www.crime-stoppers.org)

Tipsters will remain anonymous and could be eligible for a cash reward of up to \$5,000.

**Every 7 seconds a child is bullied.**



**Bullying** is any unwanted aggressive behavior(s) by another youth or group of youths, who are not siblings or current dating partners, involving an observed or perceived power imbalance and is repeated multiple times or is highly likely to be repeated. Bullying may inflict harm or distress on the targeted youth including physical, psychological, social, or educational harm.

**Cyberbullying** is bullying that takes place using electronic technology to harass, threaten, embarrass, or target another person. It can be harsher since it is far reaching and can take away a sense of safety at home.

## Did you know?

- Nearly 75% of school shootings have been linked to harassment and bullying.
- More than half of bullying situations (57%) stop when a peer intervenes on behalf of the student being bullied.
- 11% of students in Houston did not go to school at least one day because they felt unsafe.
- Among middle school students, 24% are cyberbullied and 45% are bullied on school property.
- Only 7% of U.S. parents are worried about cyberbullying; yet 33% of teenagers have been victims of cyberbullying.
- For every suicide among young people, there are at least 100 suicide attempts.
- 71% of school shooters had been victims of bullying.



## FOR PARENTS

- Discuss values and expectations regularly
- Talk to your child about using good manners online and not sharing personal information
- Be a role model to your child and remember that children will see what you do before they hear what you say
- Safeguard all electronic devices by adjusting settings such as privacy and filters
- Teach your child how to block and report anyone who reaches out to them privately, makes them feel uncomfortable and/or asks for personal information
- Monitor your child's internet usage – it's not an invasion of privacy, it's your duty as a parent

### If your child is bullied:

- Support your child and listen without judgment
- Gather all the details and ask to see any evidence
- Contact and work with the school to help resolve the problem, ask to see their policies



## FOR STUDENTS

- It is never your fault if you are victimized!
- Inform your school, police or Crime Stoppers of unsafe situations
- Block and tell a trusted adult if anyone reaches out privately, asks for personal information/pictures or makes you feel uncomfortable or unsafe
- Remember that anything you post online will stay online indefinitely, even if your accounts are private

### If you are bullied:

- Do not respond or retaliate!
- Save evidence such as screenshots and document any incidents of wrongdoing
- Report! To a trusted adult, police or Crime Stoppers
- Avoid being alone in the hall, bathroom or walking home

### Be a friend:

- Support those who are being bullied, whether you know them or not, on and offline
- Don't join in just to fit in
- Tell bullies to stop (*if you feel safe to do so*)
- Report! To a trusted adult, police or Crime Stoppers



## FOR SCHOOL STAFF

Even though bullying pertains to schools – if an issue is initiated online and carries over to school – it is bullying. Review Section 37.0832 of the Texas Education Code and the Student Code of Conduct to communicate expectations.

### Prevention:

- Be vigilant and proactive by integrating bullying lessons in your class/school
- Be a positive role model and set a good example

### If a student reports:

- Believe them, maintain calm, express sympathy and take action
- Separate kids involved and make sure everyone is safe, don't worry about facts immediately
- Be discreet and speak to those involved privately and individually
- Inform parents of all students involved
- Follow up, follow up, follow up!

### Schedule a presentation/training today through Crime Stoppers. We offer:

- Cyber safety presentations that educate students on real and potential online threats including tricks and tools perpetrators use, cyberbullying, revealing too much information and laws.
- Parent presentations that illustrate and explain social media apps, hidden apps, online dangers, how to spot, what to watch for, safety settings and laws.
- Bullying prevention trainings for school staff that cover best practices on creating a bully free climate. Current laws are reviewed and used to discuss various interventions. Tips on engaging students and parents are provided and application of the tools are used to practice identifying and responding to various bullying scenarios.

### Report the following anonymously:

- a weapon
- threats of serious physical injury or harm
- threats to your school
- illegal activity such as robbery or extortion (using force to acquire money or property)



## BEWARE! - When BULLYING becomes a CRIME

**Did you know that the legal age you can be charged with crimes in Texas is 10?** Offenses can occur at school, away from school and through electronic means such as social media. Bullying behavior can have lasting social, academic and criminal consequences. The following conduct can be a crime and/or warrant disciplinary action at school:

- Physically hitting or assaulting someone
- Harassment including:
  - Excessive texts/messages/calls
  - Obscene texts/messages/calls
  - Racial or gender slurs
  - Threats of harm to you, your family or property
- Making violent threats (*even if you're joking*)
  - To your school such as shootings and bomb threats
  - That cause emergency services to respond
  - That prevent or interrupt the school day, transportation or communications
  - That puts a person or the public in fear for their safety
  - Death threats
- Telling someone to harm themselves
- Inappropriate pictures (*Sexting*)
  - Taking a photo of someone in a place where they expect privacy such as bathroom or locker room
  - If you are under 18 and take a picture/video of yourself
  - If share a picture/video of yourself or someone else
  - You are in possession of a picture/video (even if you did not ask for it)
  - You coerce, threaten or extort someone to send you a picture/video
  - Stalking someone
  - Committing hate crimes