



Bullying Prevention Initiative



THE BULLYING PROBLEM

Boys will be boys. Girls can be mean. Don't worry, it's a phase; they'll grow out of it.

Not so.

Research shows that youth who bully typically have a criminal record by age 24, and victims of bullying have an increased chance for experiencing academic failure, school absenteeism, low self-esteem, depression and an inability to connect socially with other youth. Additional research, conducted by The Colorado Trust and the Families and Work Institute, found that the majority of Colorado's young people said they had experienced some form of bullying.

“One of the most important issues to be addressed through this effort is educating and empowering the vast majority of students who are neither bullying nor being bullied, but are bystanders. Far too often, we read tragic news stories that underscore the importance of increasing awareness among students, teachers and others about bullying, including how to put a stop to it and how to prevent it altogether.”

– John R. Moran, Jr., President and CEO of The Colorado Trust

Bullying takes many different forms, from the skinny little boy with glasses who is always called names and left out, and the over-weight middle school girl who has been picked on for so many years that she ends her life by what's now being called “bullycide,” to the teenage boys who finally snap and take the lives of others in their school.

Bullying has become such a serious problem that 17 states, including Colorado, have anti-bullying legislation. In addition to state laws and school policies, there is also a need for students, educators and parents to better understand why young people bully, and why others are targeted by bullies. And for bystanders – the 85% of students not actively involved in bullying activities, and adults as well – to learn how to step in and put a stop to bullying.

BULLYING PREVENTION INITIATIVE

The Colorado Trust's three-year (2005–2008), \$8.6 million Bullying Prevention Initiative builds on and further strengthens other anti-bullying efforts underway across the state. Through this effort, 45 grantees – 17 school districts, 5 schools and 23 community-based organizations – are working to increase awareness about bullying, and to educate youth and adults about how they can prevent and intervene in this type of violence. Collectively, these organizations estimate they will reach out to more than 50,000 young people, as well as adults, in 40 counties.

Grantees are developing new programs and expanding existing bullying prevention programs. They will come together for trainings and networking opportunities, to

learn from each other and to share their successes and challenges with others more broadly. Each grantee will also receive expert technical assistance to support and enhance their bullying prevention experience.

An independent evaluation of this initiative is being conducted to determine how effectively grantees' efforts strengthen the skills of youth and adults to intervene in bullying situations. Participating school districts, schools and community organizations also are receiving training to help them continue to evaluate their on-going efforts past the three years of this initiative. The evaluation is being conducted by Kirk Williams, PhD of the University of California, Riverside, in partnership with the Denver-based JVA Consulting.

bul-ly-ing • the intentional exclusion of targeted youth in peer activities or social events, gossiping about others in harshly negative ways, unprovoked physical and verbal attacks or using the Internet to anonymously harass and verbally attack vulnerable students.



Grantees of The Colorado Trust's Bullying Prevention Initiative

African Community Center

Aspen Center for Integrative Health

Boulder Valley School District

**Boys and Girls Club/Girls Inc. of
Pueblo County and Lower Arkansas Valley**

Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Denver

Brush Public Schools RE-2 (J)

Buffalo RE-4 School District

Calhan School District RJ-1

Centennial Middle School

Colorado Council for Community and Justice

Community Challenge School

The Conflict Center

The Council

Crested Butte Community School

Cripple Creek-Victor School District RE-1

Del Norte School District C-7

**Denver Public School District – Office of Safe
and Drug Free Schools and Communities**

Ellicott School District #22

Englewood Schools

**Envision Creative Support for People with
Developmental Disabilities**

Falcon School District #49

Front Range Center for Assault Prevention

Girl Scouts – Mile Hi Council

Girl Scouts – Mountain Prairie Council

Jewish Family Service of Colorado

KIDPOWER of Colorado Springs

Lake County School District R-1

**Lowry Family Center at the
Community College of Aurora**

Mercy Housing

Mountain Resource Center

Mountain Valley School District Re-1

Park County School District RE-2

Peak to Peak Charter Schools, Inc.

Poudre School District

Project PAVE

Pueblo School Dist 60 – Project Respect

**San Luis Valley Victim Offender
Reconciliation Program**

San Miguel Resource Center

Stevens Elementary School

Smart Girl Inc.

Summit School District

University of Denver Bridge Project

Walsh School District RE-1

**Youth Unlimited, d/b/a Boys and Girls
Club of Chaffee County**

The Bullying Prevention Initiative is jointly managed by: Colorado Foundation for Families and Children, Jill Sanford, Project Director, 303-837-8466 ext. 120, jills@coloradofoundation.org; and Colorado Springs Assets for Youth, Maureen Mckasy-Donlin, Executive Director, 719-635-8300, mmdonlin@csay.org.

For more information about The Colorado Trust's Bullying Prevention Initiative, contact Ed Guajardo Lucero, Senior Program Officer, ed@coloradotrust.org. For additional information about the evaluation, contact Nancy B. Csuti, Director of Evaluation, nancy@coloradotrust.org.

The Colorado Trust's Bullying Prevention Initiative stems from its longstanding commitment to positive youth development and youth violence prevention efforts. Over the last decade, The Colorado Trust has committed over \$44 million to such initiatives as the Safe2Tell Hotline, Safe Communities~Safe Schools, Preventing Youth Handgun Violence, After-School and Assets for Colorado Youth.