

# STAND UP TO BULLYING!

BULLYING AWARENESS WEEK:  
November 15-21, 2020



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## WHY IS THE SCHOOL BUS THE # 2 PLACE FOR BULLYING OCCURRENCES?

For bullies interested in picking on their peers, the school bus is an ideal location. Supervision is generally minimal before boarding the bus and while on the bus; the only adult is the driver who cannot see everything when operating the vehicle. The bus is a small confined space where victims have no place to retreat.

## DANGERS OF BUS BULLYING

Bullying is dangerous to the student being tormented - in addition to physical harm, constant bullying can damage a child's confidence, self-esteem and other personality traits. Bullying can be dangerous to everyone in the vehicle because of the close quarters; other students can easily be drawn into the action, either as additional victims or succumbing to the peer pressure to be a bully themselves. Severe bullying can distract the bus driver, increasing the risk of an accident.

## SIGNS OF BUS BULLYING

Students who are being bullied may not be willing to approach adults for help because they are concerned with being labeled weak or tattle-tales. Some signs of bullying on the bus may include:

- ➡ Fear of going to school or of riding the bus.
- ➡ Habitually delaying or otherwise deliberately trying to miss the bus.
- ➡ Continually asking for rides to school or finding excuses to ride with friends instead of on the bus.
- ➡ Ripped clothes, missing possessions or signs of physical abuse that a teacher is unable to report happening in class or at school.

## HOW TO REACT TO BULLYING

1. It is estimated that nearly one in five students is subjected to school bus bullying however, there are steps that students can take to help prevent or stop bus bullying.
2. Sit as close to the bus driver as possible and on the right-hand side of the bus so they are visible to the driver.
3. Pair up with a neighborhood friend and ride the bus together.
4. Be polite to someone who tries to bully them rather than reacting with anger; fighting back should never be an option and will only make the situation worse.
5. Tell adults when bullying happens, including parents, teachers and the bus driver.
6. Stand up for other students who are being bullied to keep it from spreading.