This report summarizes the early findings of research conducted by Dr. Dorothy Espelage. The study is not yet complete, but the initial findings are compelling. It is found that middle school students who engage in bullying with homophobic teasing may later engage in sexual harassment.

While not all youth who engage in bullying behaviors will advance to perpetrating sexual violence, unresolved bullying behavior may escalate to sexual violence.

Addressing sexual harassment and homophobic teasing more explicitly in bullying prevention efforts may help reduce sexual harassment in older youths.

Brief suggestions for addressing homophobic teasing are included to help educators create and model respectful climates.
CSSRC Resource Review

Cost: N/A

Additional Comments: