## **REALISTIC STRATEGIES FOR BULLY PREVENTION & PROMOTING POSITIVE SCHOOL CLIMATE**

Dorothy L. Espelage, Ph.D. Professor, Child Development Division; Educational Psychology, Hardie Scholar University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign espelage@illinois.edu www.dorothyespelage.com Twitter: dorothyespelage

This research was supported by Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (#1U01/CE001677) to Dorothy Espelage (PI)

#### University of Illinois Anti-Bullying Program

#### Indiana University Teen Conflict Survey (Bosworth, Espelage, & Simon, 1999; Espelage et al., 2000, 2001)

- · University of Illinois Bullying Research Program
- INTERVIEW STUDY (Espelage & Asidao, 2001)
- EXPOSURE TO VIOLENCE STUDY (Espelage, 1998)
- SOCIAL NETWORK ANALYSIS STUDY (Espelage, Holt, & Henkel, 2003; Espelage, Green, & Wasserman, 2007; Espelage, Green, & Polanin, in press)
- SEXUAL HARASSMENT, DATING VIOLENCE, & BULLYING STUDIES (Holt & Espelage, 2003; Holt & Espelage, 2005: Espelage & Holt, 2006) ATTRIBUTION, COPING STYLES, & BULLYING (Kingsbury & Espelage, 2006)
- THEORY OF MIND, EMPATHY, & BULLYING (Espelage et al., 2004; Mayberry & Espelage, 2006)
- HOMOPHOBIA, SEXUAL VIOLENCE, & BULLYING (Potent & Espelage, 2006; Espelage et al., 2008) Sexual Orientation, Bullying, & Mental Health Outcomes (Espelage, Aragon, Birkett, & Koenig, 2008; Poteat, Espelage, & Koenig, 2009; Birkett, Espelage, & Koenig, 2009)
- CDC Federally-funded Grants:

Bullying & SV Overlap (2007 - 2010)

Randomized Clinical Trial of Middle School Second Step Program (Committee for Children, 2008) in Reducing Bullying & SV (2009-2013)

#### With Awareness Comes Misperception

<b>Misperception</b>	Scientific E
Bullying is an epidemic.	Bully Rate
Bully-suicide linked.	Bully Only Predictors
Bully are young criminals.	Bullies are outcomes
Bullies need to be punished.	Ignores Gr
Bullies – dysfunctional families	Good kids

#### Evidence

es Have Not Changed y One of Many e diverse in their roup Phenomena ood kids get involved in bullying

### **Definition of Bullying**

Bullying is unwanted aggressive behavior(s) among schoolage children that has a high likelihood of causing physical or psychological harm or injury and is characterized by:

- 1) an imbalance of real or perceived power that favors the aggressor(s);
- 2) is repeated or has a high likelihood of being repeated;

3)The victim(s) of bullying may feel intimidated, demeaned, or humiliated as a result of the aggression.

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# Abandon Word – Bullying?

- □ May 1, 2013: Dorothy Espelage cited in USA TODAY: "Stop using the word 'bullying' in school"
- □ Bullying:
  - Victimization
  - Aggression
  - □ Mean/Cruel Behavior
  - Disrespect
  - Sexual Harassment
  - Racism
  - □ Violence

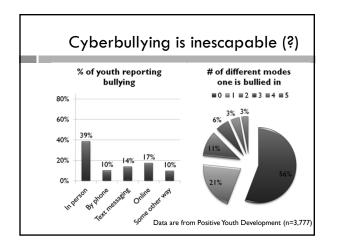
#### **Bullying Prevalence**

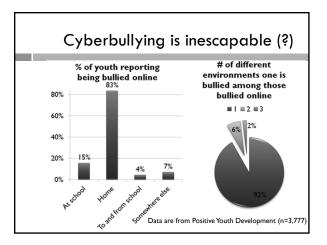
□ Among 3<sup>rd</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> graders:
 □15% Chronically Victimized
 □17% Ringleader Bullies
 □8% Bully-Victims
 □60% Bystanders

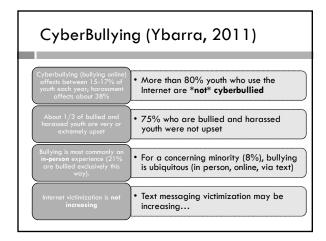
### **Cyber-Bullying**

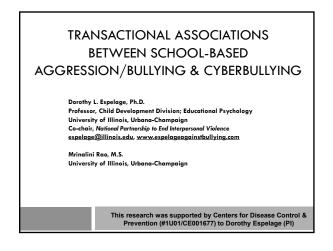
"Cyber-bullying involves the use of information and communication technologies to support deliberate, repeated, and hostile behavior by an individual or group, that is intended to harm others."

(Bill Belsey: www.cyberbullying.ca)



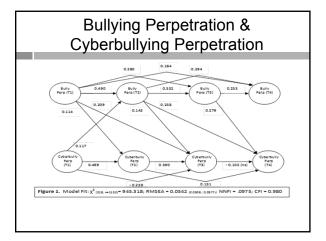


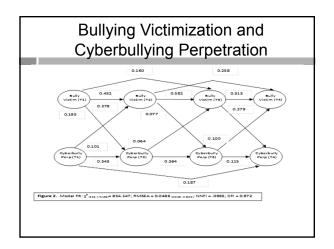


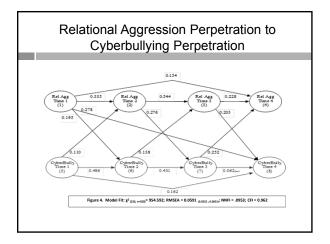


# Method

- Participants
- 1,132 students (49.1% female)
- $\,\circ\,$  3 cohorts (5th, 6th, 7th graders)
- Assessed across 4 waves including Spring/Fall 2008, Spring/Fall 2009
- Racially diverse (51% Black; 34% White; 3% Hispanic; 3% Asian; 9% Other)







# Summary

- Consistent support was found for transactional relations between school-based bullying/aggression perpetration and cyberbullying involvement.
- If schools are promoting respectful behavior this will likely spill over to "technology" – another mode of communication.

#### Bullying Prevention – Meta-analysis (Merrell et al., 2008)

- Evaluated effectiveness of 16 bullying efficacy studies across some six countries (six studies in US).
- Only two of six US studies published.
- $\hfill\square$  All showed small to negligible effects.
- Small positive effects found for enhancing social competence and peer acceptance, and increasing teacher knowledge and efficacy in implementing interventions.
- □ Reality—No impact on bullying behaviors.
- Farrington & Tfoti (2009) programs that are effective in European country include parents, use of multimedia, and target teacher's competence in responding to bullying.

#### Bullying Prevention – Pushing The Field Forward

- Need to recognize that bullying co-occurs with other types of aggression and other risky behavior (delinquency, AOD).
- Overlapping risk and protective factors need to be targeted in school-based programs in order to address spectrum of problem behavior (Cataliano et al., 2002).
- Need to consider interventions that address these risk and protective factors.
- Programs should address the peer or social norms in schools.

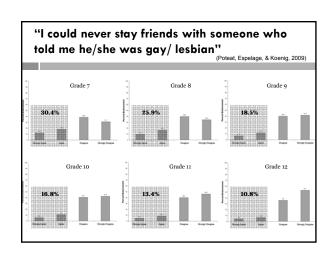
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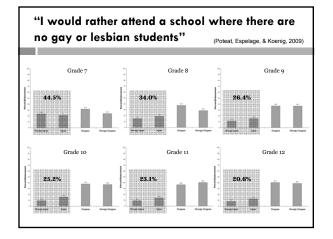
# Bullying Prevention – Pushing the Field Forward Need to address the extent to which demographic variables (such as gender and race) impact efficacy. FOR EXAMPLE, IN ONE STUDY OF THE OBPProgram; reductions in victimization were found only for white students, not for the large sample of Asian or Black students (Bauer, Lozano, & Rivara, 2007) Need to consider how classroom management skills and implementation levels impact a program's effectiveness. Need to seriously consider how to motivate schools to engage in a serious conversation about bully prevention. REALITY- Research evidence MUST inform the next generation of prevention efforts; by contributing to modifications, enhancements, implementation issues, and must infuse INNOVATION into basic and applied scholarship.

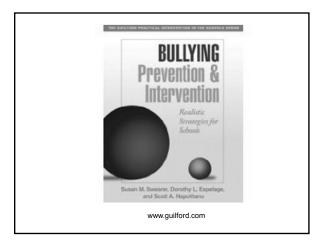
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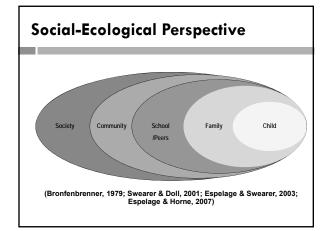
# Considering Bias-based Language Large percentage of bullying among students involves the use of homophobic teasing and slurs, called homophobic teasing or victimization (Poteat & Espelage, 2005; Poteat & Rivers, 2010). Bullying and homophobic victimization occur more frequently among

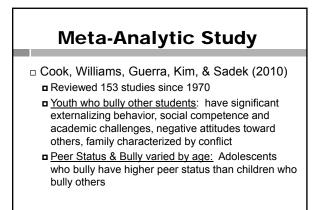
- Bullying and homophobic victimization occur more frequentity among LGBT youth in American schools than among students who identify as heterosexual (Birkett, Espelage, & Koenig, 2009; Kosciw, Greytak, & Diaz, 2009).
- Adverse outcomes are still present for LGBT youth, even after controlling for school-based victimization (Robinson & Espelage, 2012)











#### **Bullying & Adult Outcomes**

- □ Special Issue in Criminal Behaviour and Mental Health.
- Studies examined longitudinal associations between bullying/aggression during childhood/adolescence and then associations with adult outcomes (substance use, offending, job status)
- Studies controlled for a number of risky individual (hyperactivity) and contextual (family) variables
- Association between bullying and later adult outcomes reduced when these variables were considered
- Conclusion: Bullying MIGHT increase the likelihood of these later outcomes.

#### Individual Correlates of Bullying Involvement

- Depression/Anxiety
- Empathy
- Delinquency
- □ Impulsivity
- Other forms of Aggression
- □ Alcohol/Drug Use
- Positive Attitudes toward Violence/Bullying
- □ Low Value for Prosocial Behaviors
  - For review (Espelage & Swearer, 2003; Espelage & Horne, 2007)

#### **Family & School Risk Factors** FAMILY Lack of supervision - Lack of supervision - Lack of attachment - Lack of attachment - Negative, critical - Negative, critical relationships relationships Lack of discipline/ - Lack of discipline/ consequences consequences - Support for violence - Support for violence - Modeling of violence - Modeling of violence

For review (Espelage, 2012; Espelage & Horne, 2007)

#### TEACHER/STAFF PERCEPTIONS OF SCHOOL CULTURE: LINKS TO STUDENT REPORTS OF BULLYING, VICTIMIZATION, AGGRESSION, & WILLINGNESS TO INTERVENE

Dorothy L. Espelage, Ph.D. Professor, Child Development Division; Educational Psychology <u>espelage@illinois.edu</u> Joshua Polanin, M.A., Loyola University, Chicago

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# **School Culture Matters**

"school policies, attitudes and behaviors of teachers, administrators and the student body, and the overall atmosphere or school ethos, determine the internal life or social, emotional, and motivation climate of the school." (Kasen et al., 2004).

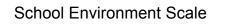
THESE AUTHORS FIND + SCHOOL CULTURE/CLIMATE IS ASSOC. WITH HIGHER ACAD. PERFORMANCE & LESS BULLYING

#### School Environment Survey

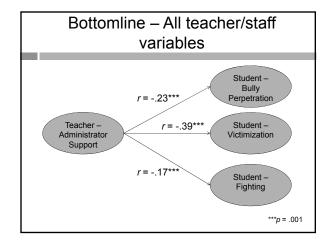
- Modified School Environment Survey (Low & Brown, 2008)
- □ 47 scale items plus demographics
- Developed through survey monkey
- All teachers, staff, administrators, and paraprofessionals invited to complete the survey through email from Principal.

#### School Environment Survey

- 35 of 36 schools returned surveys; 1 school only submitted
   2; thus, data on 34 were included in school-level baseline data.
  - **1**428 responses were complete; School M = 21.57 (SD = 10.31)
  - 66% teachers, 10% support staff, 9% paraprofessionals, 3% counselors, 4% administrators, 2% custodial staff, 1 bus driver, 1 cafeteria worker, 6 student teachers
  - 74% females
  - 75% white, 8% hispanic, 10% black, 4% other
  - $\blacksquare$  Age range from 20-29 years (16%) through over 55 years (15%); M = 40 to 44 years of age
  - Teaching at current school 1<sup>st</sup> year (13%) through 10> years (18%); *M* = 3 to 5 years



- Six scales emerged from factor analyses, measuring teacher/staff PERCEPTIONS OF:
  - Student intervention (5 items; α = .83)
  - □ Staff intervention (5 items; α = .89)
  - **\square** Aggression being a problem (5 items;  $\alpha$  = .80)
  - School is doing professional development /adminstrator support (8 items; α = .90)
  - **D** Positive school climate overall (7 items;  $\alpha$  = .85)



#### BULLYING PERPETRATION & SUBSEQUENT SEXUAL VIOLENCE PERPETRATION AMONG MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

(JOURNAL OF ADOLESCENT HEALTH (2012)

Dorothy L. Espelage, Ph.D. University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign & Kathleen C. Basile, Ph.D. Division of Violence Prevention Centers for Disease Control & Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia Merle E. Homburger, Ph.D.

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#### **Bully-Sexual Violence Pathway**

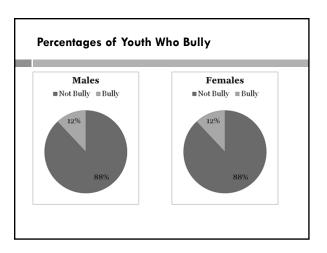
- Emerging theory bullying perpetration & homophobic teasing are thought to be predictive of sexual violence over time.
- Bullying is associated with increasing homophobic teasing perpetration during early adolescence.
- When students engage in homophobic teasing, sexual perpetration may develop as students are developing oppositesex attractions and sexual harassment becomes more prevalent.

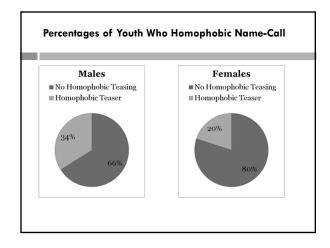
#### Definitions

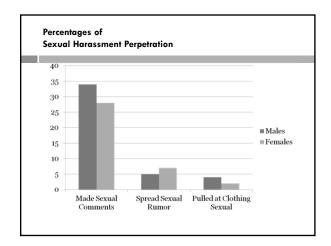
- Bullying: An act of intentionally inflicting injury or discomfort upon another person (through physical contact, through words or in other ways) repeatedly and over time for the purpose of intimidation and/or control.
- Homophobic Teasing: Negative attitudes and behaviors directed toward individuals who identify as or are *perceived* to be lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgendered.
- Sexual Harassment: Includes comments, sexual rumor spreading, or groping.

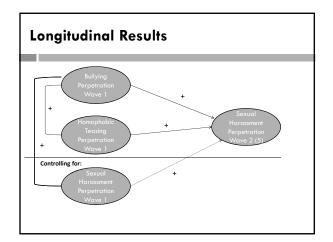
#### **Participants of Current Study**

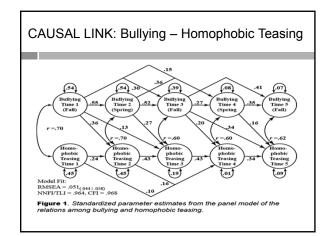
- □ 1,391 middle school students
- $\square$  5 middle schools (grades 5 8)
- □ 49.8% Females
- 59% African-American, 41% Caucasian
- □ 67% Low-Income

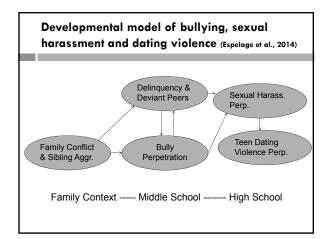


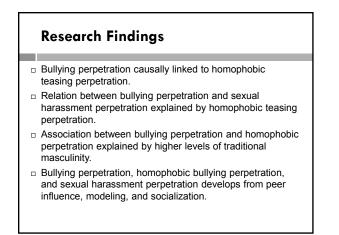


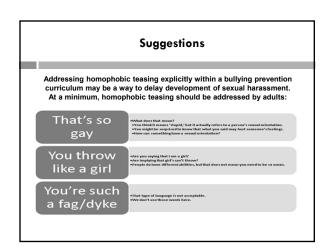


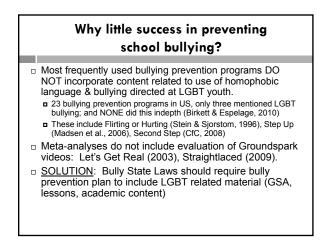










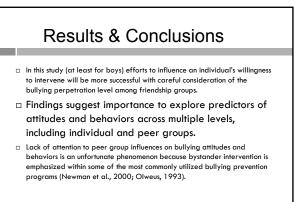


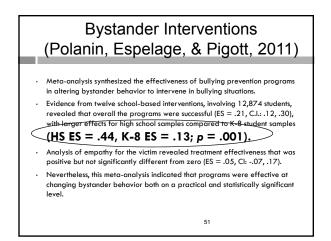
#### WILLINGNESS TO INTERVENE IN BULLYING EPISODES AMONG MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS: INDIVIDUAL AND PEER-GROUP INFLUENCES

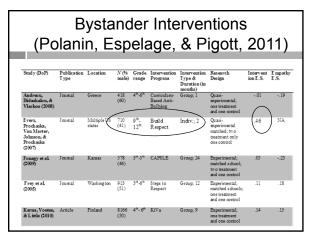
#### JOURNAL OF EARLY ADOLESCENCE (2012)

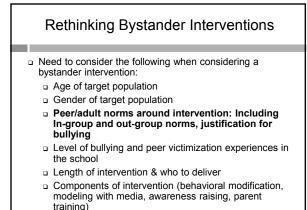
Dorothy L. Espelage, Ph.D. Professor, Child Development Division; Educational Psychola <u>spelage@lillinois.edu</u> Jarold J. Green, Ph.D.; RAND Corporation Ischue Polanin, M.A., Leyola University, Chicago

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- Goal 1: Develop self-awareness and selfmanagement skills to achieve school and life success.
  - Identify and manage one's emotions and behavior.
  - Recognize personal qualities and external supports.
  - Demonstrate skills related to achieving personal and academic goals.

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#### **Social-Emotional Learning**

- Goal 2: Use social-awareness and interpersonal skills to establish and maintain positive relationships.
  - Recognize the feelings and perspectives of others.
  - Recognize individual and group similarities and differences.
  - Use communication and social skills to interact effectively with others.
  - Demonstrate an ability to prevent, manage, and resolve interpersonal conflicts in constructive ways.

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#### Social-Emotional Learning

- Goal 3: Demonstrate decision-making skills and responsible behaviors in personal, school, and community contexts.
  - □ Consider ethical, safety, and societal factors in making decisions.
  - □ Apply decision-making skills to deal responsibly with daily academic and social situations.

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Contribute to the well-being of one's school and community.

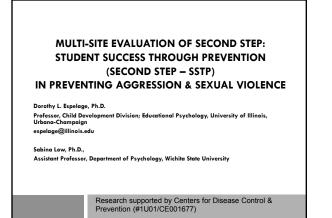
#### **SEL Framework**

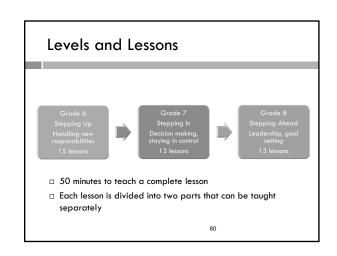
#### □ Research Foundations

- Risk and Protective Factors
- Bullying
- Brain Research
- Positive Approaches to Problem Behavior
- Developmental Needs of Young Adolescents
  - (Espelage & Low, 2012)

#### Social-Emotional Learning (SEL)

- SEL focuses on the systematic development of a core set of social and emotional skills that help youth more effectively handle life challenges, make better decisions, and thrive in both their learning and their social environments through a climate that supports the practicing of skills.
- A meta-analysis of 213 programs found that if a school implements a quality SEL curriculum, they can expect better student behavior and an 11 percentile increase in test scores (Durlak, Weissberg, Dymnicki, Taylor, & Schellinger, 2010).





# Five Program Themes Each level includes the following five themes: Empathy and communication Bullying prevention Bullying prevention Coping with stress (grades 7 and 8) Problem-solving Decision-making (grade 7) Goal-setting (grade 8) Substance abuse prevention

#### Results

•The HGLM analysis indicated that students from the Second Step intervention schools had a significantly decreased probability of self-report fighting ( $\gamma_{01}$  = -.36, p < .05, O.R. = .70) in comparison to students in the control schools.

•The adjusted odds ratio indicated that the treatment effect was substantial; individuals in intervention schools were 42% less likely to self-report fighting other students after year 1; 53% less likely to report homophobic victimization and 36% less likely to report sexual harassment perpetration after year 2 (in Illinois schools only)

#### Implications for Prevention Programming

- Need to give kids life and social skills, not just knowledge about bullying
- Need to assess whether effective secondary and tertiary programs also reduce bullying & improve school climate
- Bullying programs need to consider incorporating discussion of sexual harassment and (homophobic language; Birkett & Espelage, 2010).
  - 67 bullying prevention programs in US, only five discuss sexual harassment or sexual orientation issues.
- Peers influence has to be considered in developing and evaluating prevention/intervention programs
  - 67 bullying prevention programs, only one attempts to target and shift peer norms.

# Implications for Prevention Programming

- Recognize that students are witnessing and involved in violence in their homes. We need to give them alternatives to violence for solving problems and conflicts.
- Consider how the use of technology is influencing relationships and talk to kids about responsible use of technology.

# **Realistic Strategies**

□ Simple strategies can help to decrease bullying

- Use data to make decisions (i.e., Increase hallway monitors; reduce time between classes)
- Involve PE teachers and coaches in stopping bullying behaviors
- With your support, students can play an important role in decreasing bullying
  - Implement a procedure to allow students to confidentially report bullying incidents
  - Create a confidential reporting system
  - (www.bullytracker.com)
  - Have an open door policy with counselors to address the needs of students involved in bullying

# **Realistic Strategies**

- Make sure your school has an anti-bullying policy that is consistent with state and federal policies
- Make sure the adult workplace models healthy social relationships
- Work respectfully and collaboratively with families
- Use videos and classroom discussion guides to talk about the detrimental effects of bullying
- Use social-emotional learning activities to create a positive school climate
- Use a positive behavioral interventions and supports to respond effectively to student behaviors

#### **Clearinghouse/Federal Resources**

http://www.campbellcollaboration.org/library.php Meta-analyses of a wide range of topics

<u>http://www.nrepp.samhsa.gov/</u> National registry of effective programs for aggression, AOD, bullying, etc.

http://casel.org/ Clearinghouse for Social-Emotional Learning Prevention etc.

http://www.schoolclimate.org/ Evidence-based School Climate Site

http://www.characterplus.org/ Character Education site

#### Interactive Resources

http://www.stopbullying.gov/kids/ Videos for kids; games

http://www.cartoonnetwork.com/promos/stopbullying/index.html Cartoon Network Stop Bullying-Speak Up Campaign

http://www.cartoonnetwork.com/promos/stopbullying/video/index.html

Students talk about speaking up video (25 minutes)

http://www.sesamestreet.org/parents/topicsandactivities/topics/bullyi
ng
Sesame Street Efforts (16 minute video)

http://www.pacer.org/bullying/ Wide range of resources

#### Resources

#### http://www.stopbullying.gov/

Newly launched government site, always changing, tips for surveys, and resources that are promising will eventually be added. Bookmark this site.

http://www.pacerteensagainstbullying.org/#/home Teens against bullying

http://www.pacerkidsagainstbullying.org/ Kids against bullying

http://www.facebook.com/safety/ Facebook Safety Tips

http://www.storiesofus.com/ Stories of Us Videos and Curriculum

#### **Evidence-Based Resources**

http://www.evidencebasedprograms.org/static/pdfs/GBG%20Manual.pdf

Good Behavior Game Manual

http://www.pbis.org/ Positive Behavior Intervention Supports

https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/236175.pdf Shifting Boundaries Intervention

http://www.cfchildren.org/ Developers of Second Step, Steps to Respect

http://web.uvic.ca/wits/ WITS-Canadian bully prevention program

#### Resources

http://groundspark.org/our-films-and-campaigns/lets-getreal/lgr\_clips

Let's get real clip (clip 2:37)

http://groundspark.org/our-films-and-campaigns/straightlaced Straightlaced clip (clip 2:00)

http://www.glsen.org/cgi-bin/iowa/all/home/index.html Gay, Lesbian, Straight, Education Network Main Website

#### http://www.thetrevorproject.org/

Founded in 1998 by the creators of the Academy Award®-winning short film TREVOR, The Trevor Project is the leading national organization providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBQ) young people ages 13-24.