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## Connecting Bullying and School Drop Out

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# Connecting Bullying and School Drop Out

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**Sports:**  
Football scrimmage  
shows off teams'  
passing skills. **A7**

# the gazette

**Commentary:**  
Dads deserve  
more than a tie  
once a year. **A4**

SERVING THE CITY OF GOOSE CREEK  
ourgazette.com || Thursday, June 14, 2018

## Students creating inclusive program

BY RICKEY CIAPHA  
DENNIS JR.  
rdennis@berkeleyind.com

A handful of middle school students are using physical education, along with other avenues, to create a more inclusive environment at their school.

Berkeley Middle School's Unified program, which started four years ago, pairs special needs children with general population students to engage in physical education, music and art activities. The intent is to create an inclusive learning atmosphere.

"The transformation our school has gone through over the last four years with this program, is a school where we had special needs kids and general (education) kids — now, we have all kids," said Berkeley Middle Assistant Principal Amy Smith. "It's a very different story."

# Local schools mark graduation



(C) 2018 Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, U.S.





## Quick Fact #1

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An estimated 160,000 U.S. children miss school every day due to fear of attack or intimidation by other students.

# Bullying and Student Dropout

Bullying affects student engagement, behavior, and academic outcomes.

Student dropout has been linked to bullying and the disengagement of students from school.

Gastic, 2008; Morrison, 2002



# University of VA Study

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Dropout rate was **29% above average** in schools with high levels of teasing and bullying.

Dropout rate was **28% below average** in school with low levels of teasing and bullying.

Cornell et al., 2012





# Uniform Definition of Bullying

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Bullying is any **unwanted aggressive behavior(s)** by another youth or group of youths...that involves 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.



## Challenge #1:

Is the behavior unwanted aggression or  
is it rough play or teasing?

Unwanted means that the targeted youth wants the aggressive behaviors to stop

Two children may enjoy taunting each other in a playful manner. This should not be considered bullying.



### Cues for adults:

The relationship between the children

Expressions, body language, atmosphere



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## Physical characteristics

- Age, size, strength

## Popularity or association with popular peers

## Background/demographic characteristics

- Member of majority/minority group, socio-economic status

## Abilities and skills

- Academic, physical, artistic

## Access to money, resources information

- Being outnumbered
  - Presence of weapons
- 

**Challenge #2:**  
What constitutes  
a power  
imbalance?

## Challenge #3:

What about  
repeated  
behavior?

The child must either

- Experience multiple incidents of aggression (pattern of aggression)

**OR**

- There is a strong concern that a single aggressive behavior has a high likelihood of being followed by more incidents of aggression



Bullying may inflict harm or distress on the targeted youth...

But, not all bullied youth may be able to identify or express harm or distress that they have experienced from bullying.

Includes a wide range of negative experiences or injuries:

- Physical cuts, bruises or pain

- Psychological consequences

- Social damage to reputation or relationship

- Limits to educational opportunities



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## About the Definition...

## Quick Fact #2

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57% of boys and  
43% of girls  
reported being  
bullied because of  
religious or cultural  
differences.





# Bullying

Recognized as a pervasive and often neglected problem in schools around the world.

[Swearer, Espelage, Vaillancourt, & Hymel, 2010](#)

Approximately 28% of United States adolescents reported bullying victimization at school during the past school year.

[Robers, Zhang, Truman, & Snyder, 2012](#)

# Effects of Bullying on Victims

(c) 2018 Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, U.S.

## Social/Emotional

- Lower self-esteem
- Higher anxiety and depression
- Higher rates of illness
- More suicidal ideation

## Academic

- Have higher absenteeism rates
- avoid going to school
- Say they dislike school
- receive lower grades





# Perpetrators of Bullying

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- Have positive attitudes toward violence
- Be impulsive and have quick tempers
- Show little empathy for victims
- Be aggressive to adults
- Be involved in other antisocial or rule-breaking activities
- Be physically stronger than peers (boys)

# Effects of Bullying on School Climate

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- Creates a climate of fear and disrespect
- Interferes with learning
- Students may feel insecure and not like school as well
- Students may perceive lack of control and caring





## Quick Fact #3

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Nearly 9 out of 10 LGBTQ youth report being verbally harassed at school in the past year because of their sexual orientation.



# Students Involved with Bullying

1

Students who experience bullying are at increased risk for poor school adjustment, sleep difficulties, anxiety, and depression.

[Center for Disease Control, 2015](#)

2

Students who are both bully others and are bullied themselves are at greater risk for both mental health and behavior problems than students who only bully or are only bullied.

[Center for Disease Control, 2015](#)

3

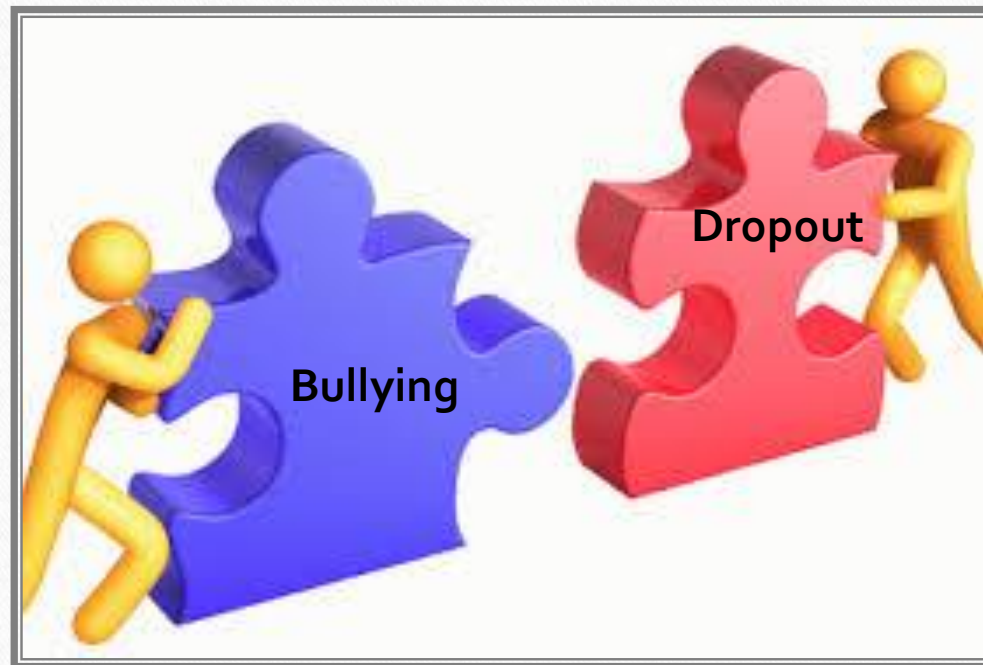
Bullied students indicate bullying has a negative effect on how they feel about themselves (19%), relationships with friends and family and on their school work (14%).

[National Center for Educational Statistics, 2016](#).



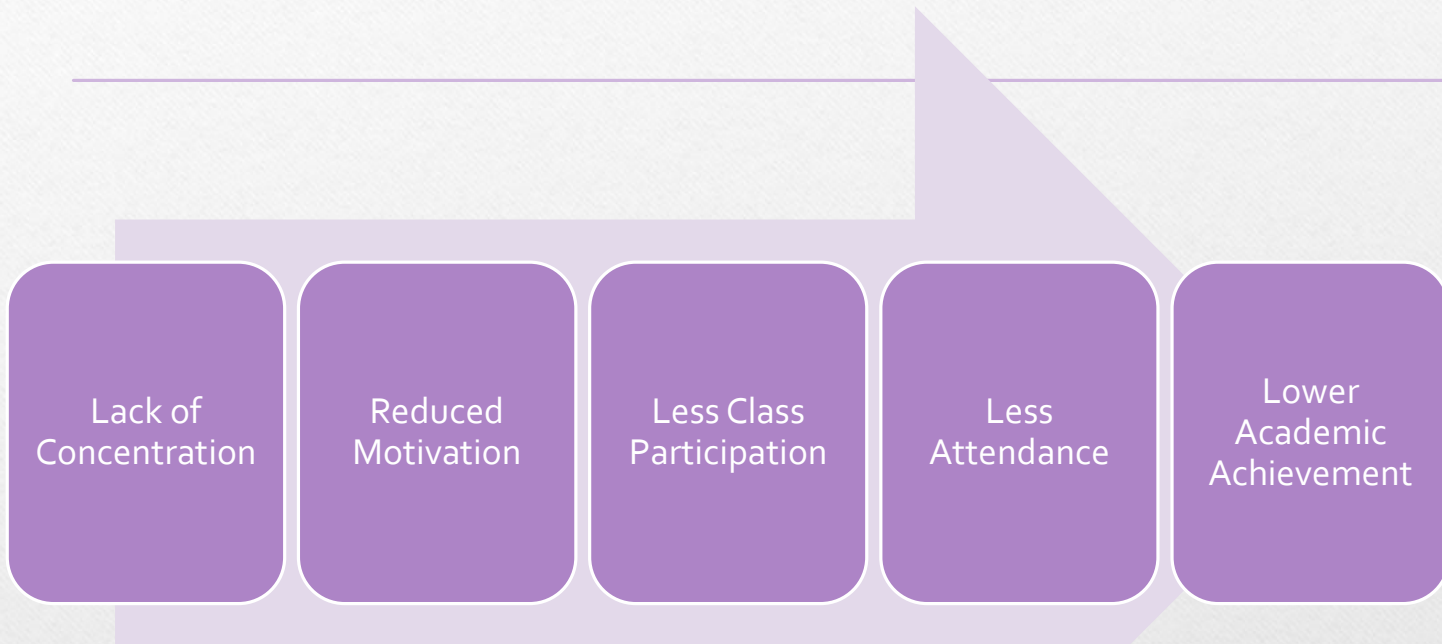
Bullying can lead to fear of school, absenteeism, and stunted academic progress, which in turn are precursors to dropping out of school.

(Townsend et al., 2008)



# Effects of Bullying on Students-

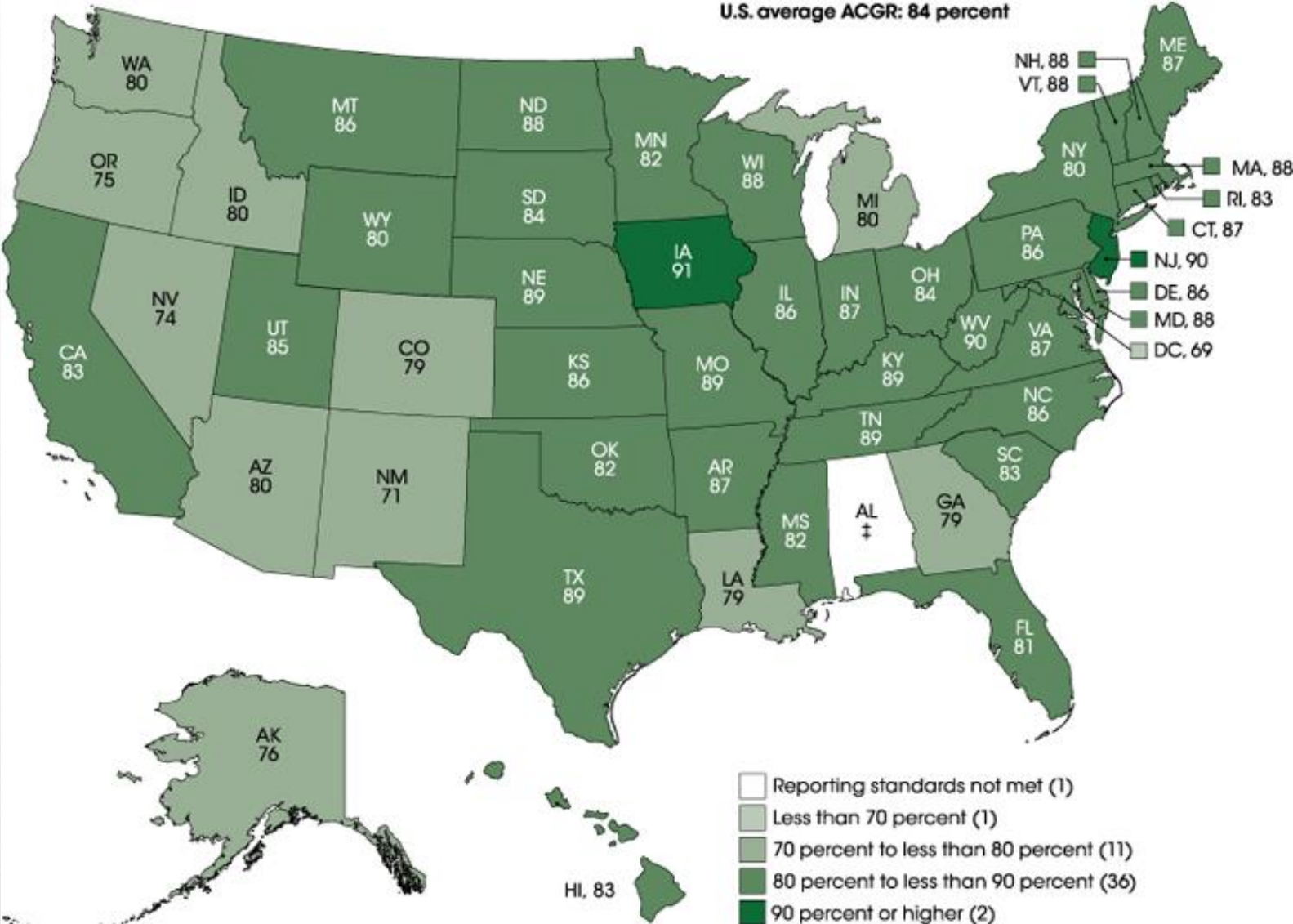
## Long lasting effects



Buhs, et al., 2006; Juvonen, et al., 2000; Schwart, et al., 2005



U.S. average ACGR: 84 percent



(c) 2018 Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, U.S.

# What could possibly be the cause of our kids dropping out of school?

8

Let us find out what is missing so that you can succeed in your Journey to adulthood.



**Mazlow's Hierarchy of Needs**

This diagram is not the answer to our problem, but it is an instrument to find a cause to such a high dropout rate.



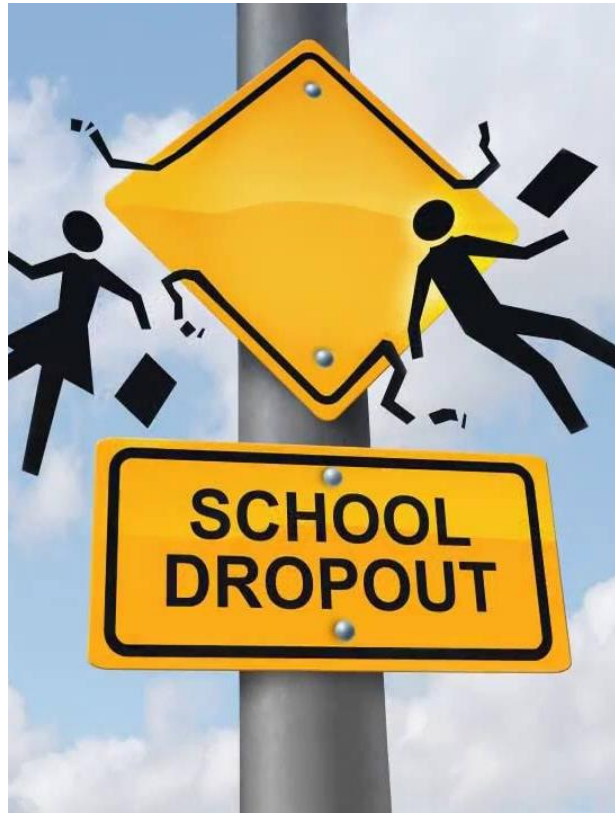
# School Dropout is a Process

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- Disengagement from school
- Life events
- Family problems

Jimerson, Reschly, and Hess (2008)





# Student Dropouts

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- Unemployed
- In poor health
- Live in poverty. be on public assistance
- Become single parents of children who also drop out of school
- Be incarcerated

Balfanz et al., 2010





## How valuable is a high school diploma?

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- The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that dropouts bring in just \$20,241 annually, which is \$10,000 less than high school graduates and over \$36,000 less than a person holding a bachelor's degree.
- The poverty rate for dropouts is over twice as high as college grads, and the unemployment rate for dropouts is generally 4 percentage points higher than the national average.
- In the end, the lifetime earnings of high school dropouts are \$260,000 LESS than peers who earn a diploma



# Student Bullying and Dropout

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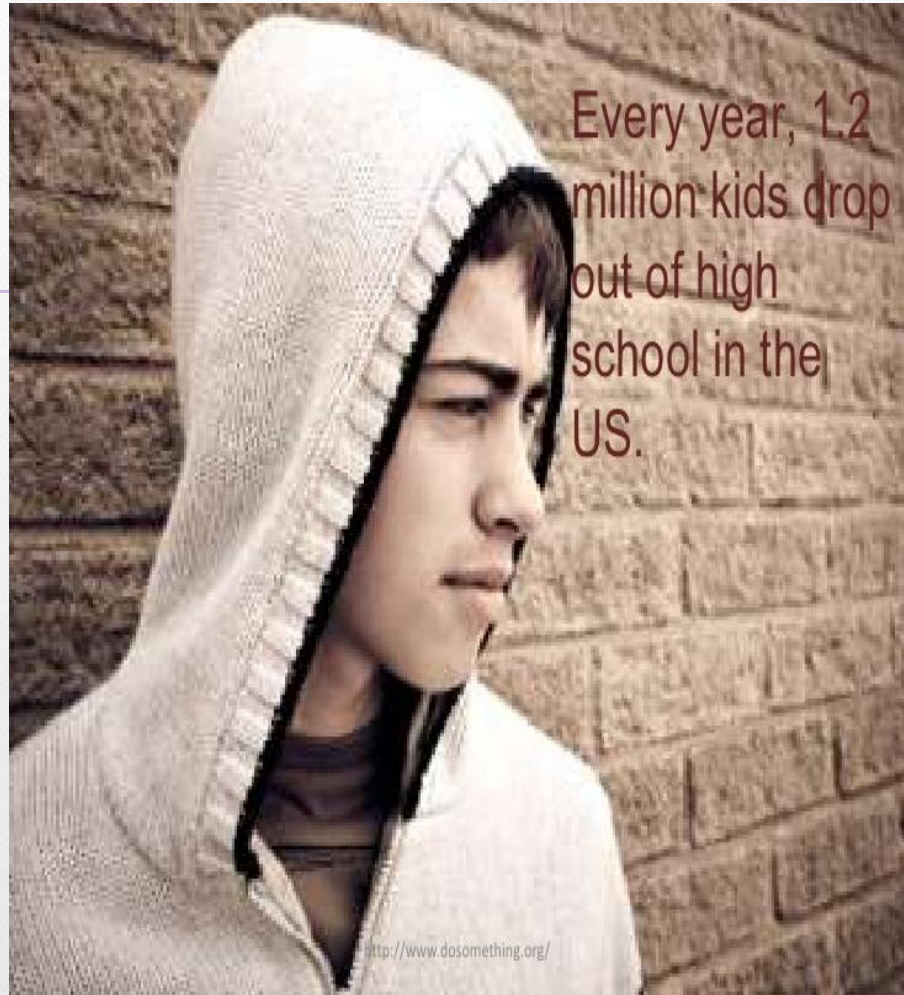
- Academic failure
- Disciplinary problems
- At risk behaviors
- Social & psychological issues
- Poor attendance
- Disengagement
- School Avoidance



## Quick Fact #4

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One out of every 10 students who drop out of school does so because of repeated incidents of bullying.





# The Social Context of Bullying

National Academies, 2016

Youth are embedded in multiple contexts, and each of these contexts interacts with individual characteristics of youth.

(c) 2018 Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, U.S.

## THE LANDSCAPE OF BULLYING

Composition of peer groups, shifting demographics, changing societal norms, and modern technology are contextual factors that must be considered to understand and effectively react to bullying in the United States. Youth are embedded in multiple contexts, and each of these contexts interacts with individual characteristics of youth in ways that either exacerbate or attenuate the association between these individual characteristics and bullying perpetration or victimization.

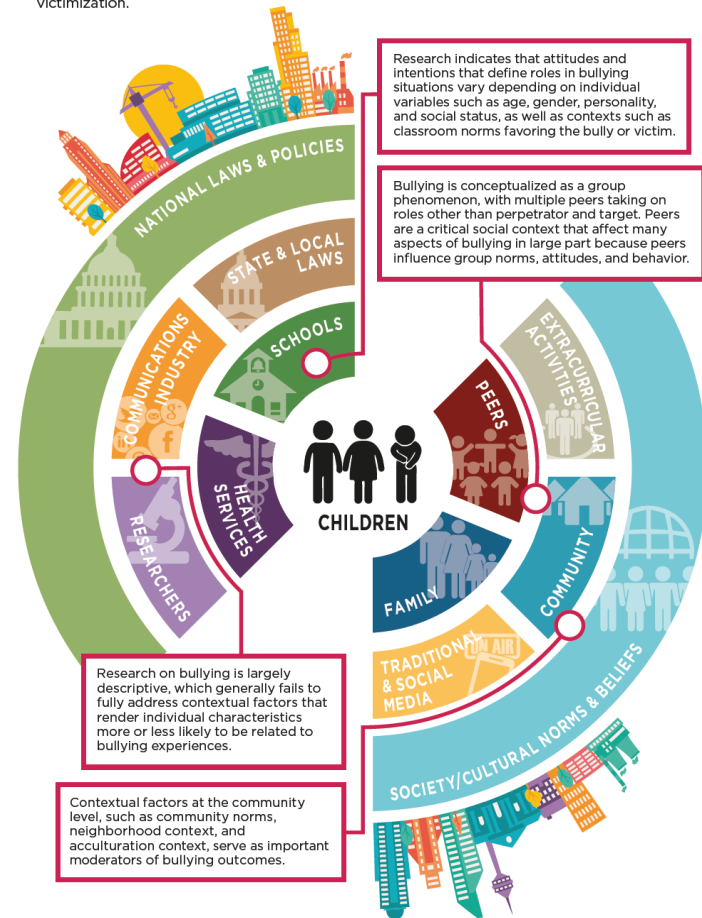
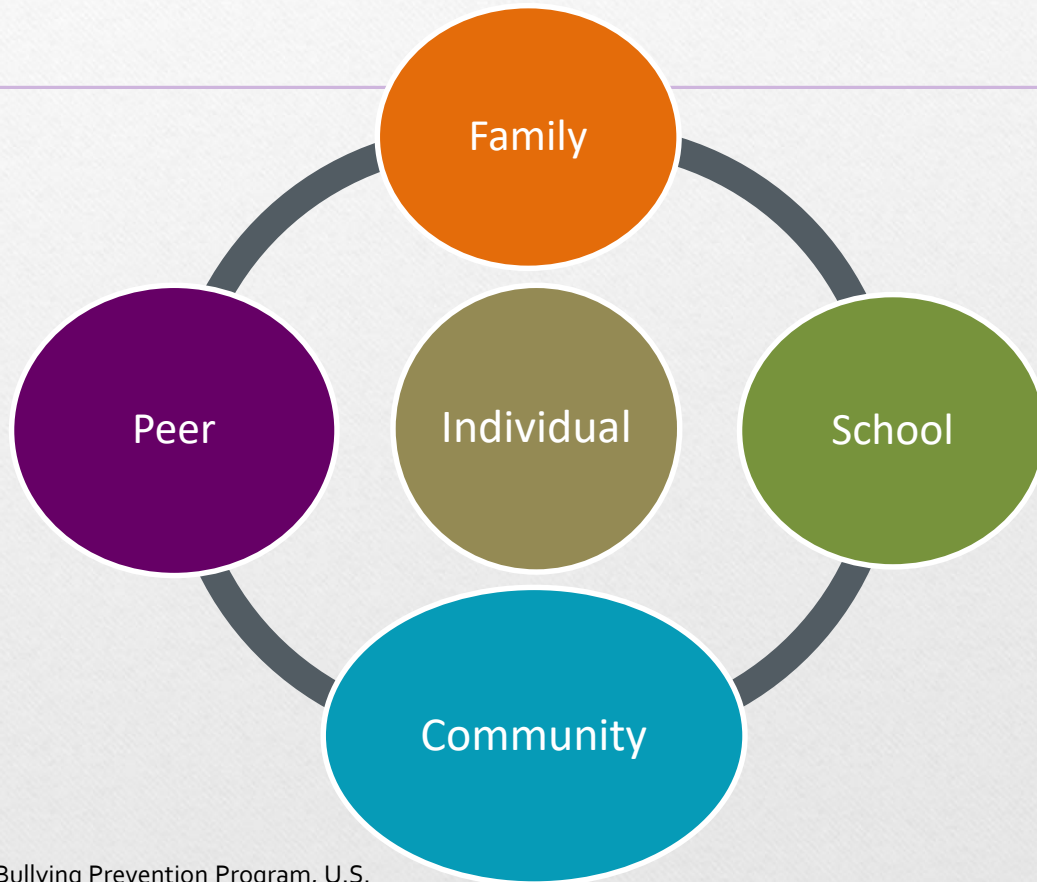


FIGURE 3-5 The landscape of bullying.



# Risk Factors



# Individual Factors

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## Dropping out

- Disengaged with school, lack of effort
- Poor attendance
- Low commitment to academics and school
- Lack of participation in extracurriculars

## Bullying

- Youth who bully - have an active, hot-headed temperament, lack social skills
- Youth who are bullied - have a quiet, passive temperament.





# Peer Factors

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## Dropping out

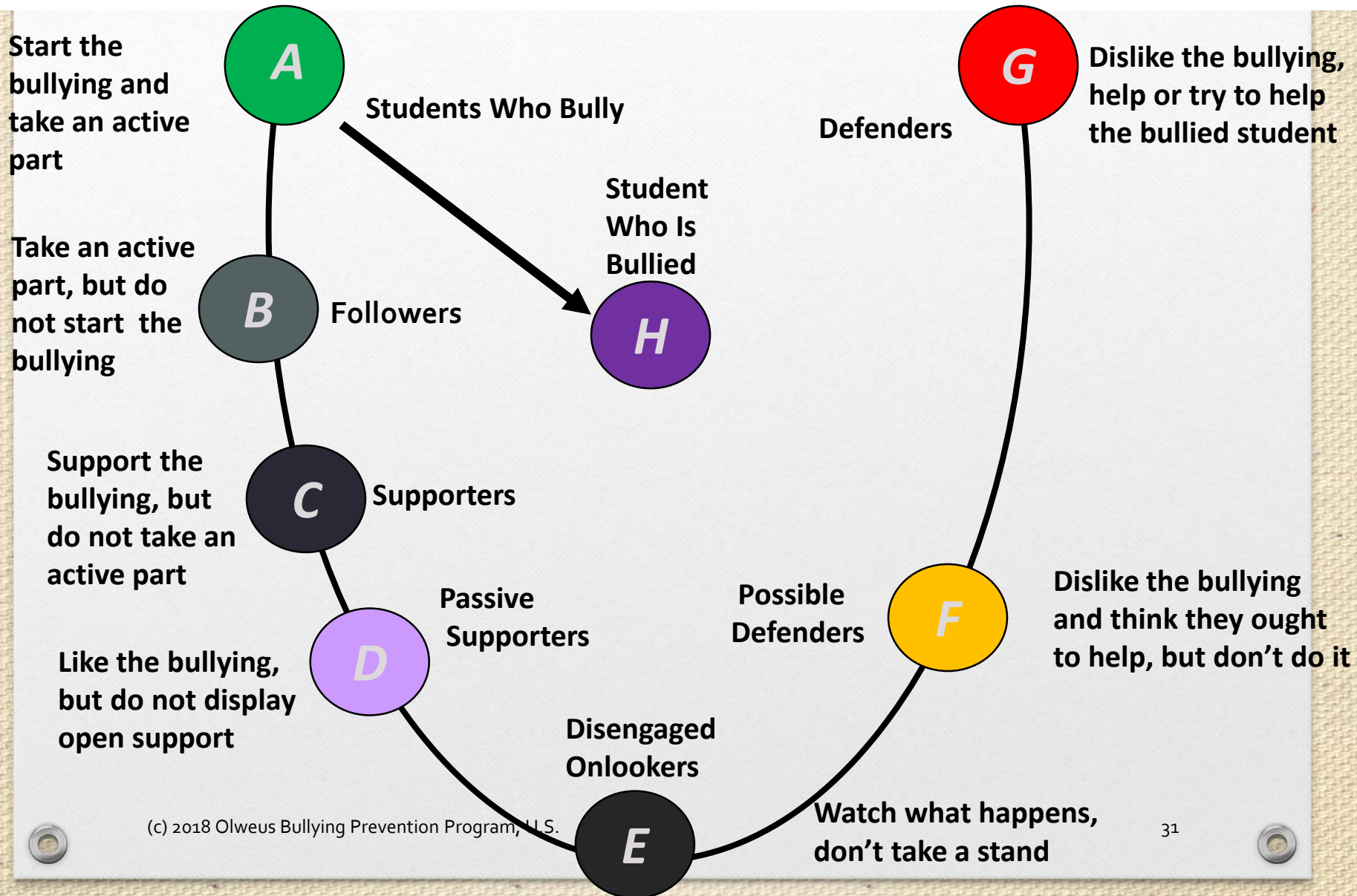
- Friends interested in sex, drinking, and using drugs
- Low rate of being enrolled in advanced academic programs

## Bullying

- Friends with aggressive, violent, or delinquent behaviors

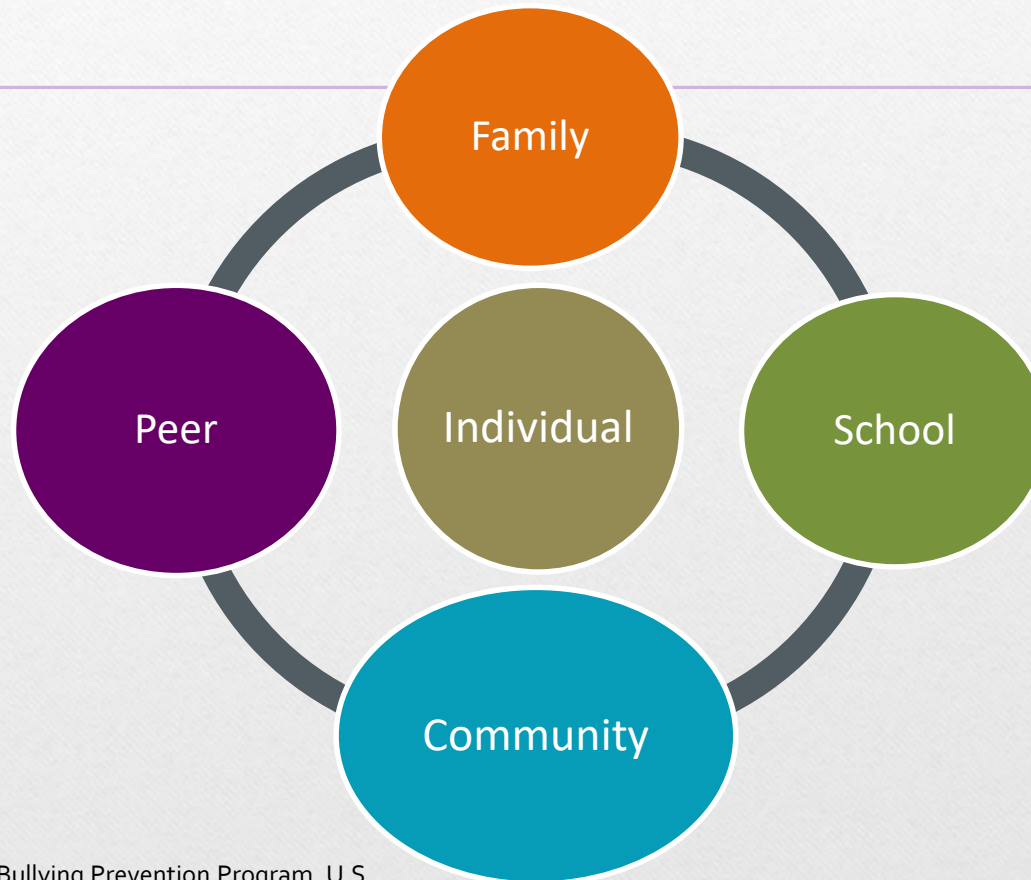


# What Roles Do Students Play In Bullying Situations?





# Risk and Protective Factors



# Family Factors

## Dropout

- High family mobility
- Disengaged families
- Low education level of parents
- Family disruption
- Low education expectations

## Bullying

- Disengaged families
- Parental conflict & domestic violence
- Parental use of drugs & alcohol
- Family incarceration
- Child abuse







## Dropout

Positive and supportive school climate

Student engagement in the school community

Students' sense of belonging to the school

Awareness and responsiveness of staff

## Bullying

Positive and supportive school climate

Degree of respect and fair treatment

Students' sense of belonging to the school

Awareness and responsiveness of staff, good supervision

## Quick Fact #5

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Six out of 10 teenagers say they witness bullying in school once a day.





## Drop out

1. Exposure to violence
2. Unsafe neighborhood
3. Low community expectations for school success

## Bullying

1. Cultural norms and beliefs that are anti-social and violent
2. Unsafe neighborhood
3. Lack of connection to adults in neighborhood



# Recommended Efforts to Address Student Dropout and Bullying

1

Address school climate

2

Support and encourage student & family engagement

3

Supervise students academically & behaviorally



# Bullying in Schools: Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, 2011



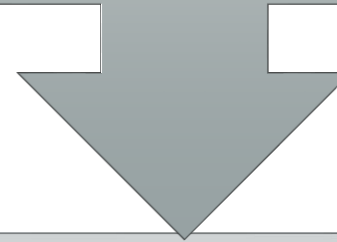
- School engagement protects victims from truancy and low academic achievement.
- When schools provide a safe learning environment in which adults model positive behavior, they can mitigate the negative effects of bullying.
- Any interventions to address bullying or victimization should be intentional, student-focused engagement strategies that fit the context of the school where they are used.

# What Might Help Students Stay in School

(c) 2018 Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, U.S.

Build a school climate that fosters academics.

Seven in ten favored increasing supervision in school and more than three in five (62%) felt more classroom discipline was necessary.



More than half (57%) felt their schools did not do enough to help students feel safe from violence.

Seven in ten (71%) said their schools did not do enough to make school interesting.



## Quick Fact #6

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Nearly 70% of students think schools respond poorly to bullying.



## Ten Practical Strategies from the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program



**strat•e•gy**

(strāt' ə-jē) *n.*

**1. Plan of action  
designed to achieve  
a particular goal.**

- 
1. Schoolwide effort
  2. Assess climate and bullying
  3. Form team to coordinate the efforts
  4. Train all staff
  5. Adopt rules against bullying
  6. Involve students in regular discussions
  7. Increase adult supervision
  8. Intervene appropriately & consistently
  9. Engage families
  10. Continue efforts over time





# In conclusion

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Victims of bullying are associated with an increased risk of dropping out of school (Gastic, 2008).

The link between bullying and dropping out requires serious attention (Nansel et al., 2001).



# Thank you

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