

Final Report

Title of Project

Revisiting Contemporary Bully-Proofing and Sexual Harassment Measures: A Prospective Review and Critical Evaluation of Future Concepts for Middle School Campuses

Principle Investigator

Michael Supancic, Ph.D.
Department of Criminal Justice

Abstract Highlighting the Results of Project

The first stage of this project – *a critical analysis of the published literature and existing policy on bullying and sexual harassment in middle schools* – is eighty-five percent complete. Two of the three prospective conclusions -- *the necessity for grade-level specific curriculum; and a collaborative, non-disciplinary based approach emphasizing the mental health of both the victim and the bully* – were, on a theoretical level, partially supported by the culled published research.

The second phase -- *the analytical assessment and evaluation of an on-going bully-proofing and sexual harassment policy and related grade-level specific curriculum* – was temporarily suspended. Several unanticipated District and campus-level policy decisions contributed to this delay. First, District officials decided that only the Principal and one Vice Principal of ___ Middle School would receive specialized training on the implementation and classroom delivery of the bullying and sexual harassment policy. They would then act as the facilitator of a tutorial training workshop for their faculty and staff. Second, the creation of all grade-level curriculum modules and classroom deliverables aimed at preventing and reducing bullying behavior and sexual harassment were given to the campus curriculum team; District’ curriculum specialists would only serve in an advisory capacity. Finally, survey results from the three previously administered School Climate Surveys initially administered by a contracted external review group were found to be corrupt at many levels, including use of improper sampling procedures. Such methodological violations rendered these potentially pre-test/benchmark measures of bullying behavior and sexual harassment at ___ Middle School unusable.

In summary, no interviews or surveys have been administered nor have any focus groups been convened thus far. On a more positive note, the goals outlined in the plans for the project were unanimously approved as the centerpiece objectives for ___ Middle School’s Campus Improvement Plan (CIP) in 2004/2005.

Presentations at meetings or other professional organizations

Tell Us Something We Don't Already Know: A Prospective Review and Critical Examination of Contemporary Bully-Proofing Measures (with Katherine Salter Welch), Panel 109: Programs and Policies For School Crime Prevention, 41st Annual Meeting, of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, March 9th-13th, 2004, Las Vegas, Nevada

A Back Door Approach to Aggression and Gender Violence in Middle Schools, Panel 21: School and Delinquency, 42nd Annual Meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences, March 15th – 19th, 2005, Chicago, Illinois