

BULLY FREE CAMPAIGN

The Bully Free: It Starts With Me Campaign

NEA's Bully Free Campaign identifies caring adults in our schools and communities who are willing to stand up as someone pledged to help bullied students. These caring adults agree to listen carefully to the bullied student who comes to them. They also agree to take action to stop the bullying. NEA, in turn, provides those caring adults with the on-line resources they need to provide solace and support for the bullied student, and to take the appropriate actions needed to stop the bullying.

The initiative connects bullied students with caring adults—one on one. It is our profoundest hope that the caring adults who have volunteered for Bully Free: It Starts With Me will also become part of a larger effort to bully-proof our schools. We encourage all caring adults to speak up for bullied students and advocate for measures that will stop bullying in our school communities.

There is a wealth of research-based information available about bullying on NEA's Bully Free website. And as one of the world's foremost anti-bullying experts, psychology professor Dan Olweus, notes: "It now all boils down to a matter of will and involvement on the part of adults in deciding how much bullying will take place in our schools."¹

In other words, when it comes to student bullying, adults can stop it, fix it, and prevent it from happening again—and NEA wholeheartedly embraces this goal. It starts with one caring adult and results in all of us creating safe learning environments and supportive communities for our students. This toolkit is intended to help educators know how to identify bullying, intervene in a bullying incident, and advocate for bullied students

I agree to be identified as a caring adult who pledges to help bullied students. I will listen carefully to all students who seek my help and act on their behalf to put an immediate stop to the bullying. I will work with other caring adults to create a safe learning environment for all the students in my school.



Please join the campaign and sign the pledge at:

www.nea.org/bullyfree *The NEA Campaign Against Bullying*

Bullied students that go it alone because they don't know who to turn to are far more likely to fall behind in their studies, get sick and/or depressed, miss school, and drop out. But research tells us that one caring adult can make all the difference in a bullied student's life.

It is crucial that bullied students know which adults in their school or community they can go to in their time of distress—adults who will listen to them and act on their behalf.

REFERENCES

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- ¹¹ **Bradshaw, C. P. et al.,** op.cit.
- ¹² **Twenlow, S. and F. Sacco. (2012).** Preventing Bullying and School Violence. Arlington, VA: American Psychiatric Publishing, Inc.



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