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BULLY PROOFING PREVENTION

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Bullies can be a dangerous to your campus environment, not just because they pose a physical threat, but their influence on other students, left unchecked, can be contagious. When a bully terrorizes a school or community environment, other children are faced with a choice: become a victim or a bully ally. Some children have no choice but remain victims while others drawn to the power of the bully and their ability to control their environment, and they join in bully behavior. This social dynamic is at the heart all gang behavior and schools who see a rise in violent groups can usually trace the violence back to a very small group of bullies. Breaking the cycle of infectious violence requires quick intervention at the core of the problem. This means identifying students whose patterns of violence have become infectious and then removing them from the violence equation. In most cases the means to remove a bully's presence exists in a state education code. For example, in California, State Education Code 48900 gives school administrators the right to suspend or expel a student for acts of violence on campus. The goal of your anti-bully policy should then reflect the tools that your State Education Code makes available to take action against repeated violent behavior. Once a bully (or bullies) have been isolated and/or removed, others who may have thought their influence inviting will back away and assimilate into a safe school culture. Other tips on conducting interventions can be found in our bully-proofing toolbox.