

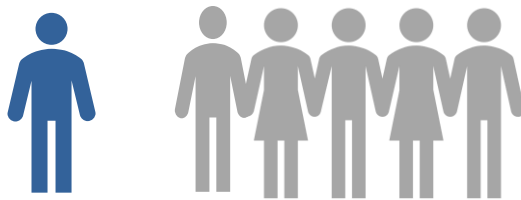
Bullying Among High School Students

Results from the 2017 Vermont Youth Risk Behavior Survey & 2018 School Health Profiles

Bullying is defined as when one or more students tease, threaten, spread rumors about, hit, shove, or hurt another student over and over again. It is not bullying when two students of about the same strength or power argue or fight or tease each other in a friendly way. Electronic bullying occurs through texting, Instagram, Facebook, or other social media sources.²

Bullying

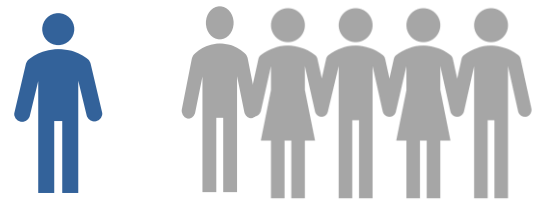
During the past 30 days



16% of high school students reported being bullied by someone else.

Electronic Bullying

During the past year



16% of high school students were bullied electronically

Source: 2017 VT Youth Risk Behavior Survey

Bullying among youth is a serious problem.

Youth who are bullied, bully others, or witness bullying may experience negative psychological, physical, and academic effects.¹

Compared to their classmates, Vermont high school students bullied during the past 30 days, were:



10 times as likely to miss school *due to safety concerns* during the past month.



6 times as likely to have *attempted suicide*,

More than 2 times as likely to *feel sad or hopeless*, and

More than 3 times as likely to *harm themselves on purpose* during the past year.



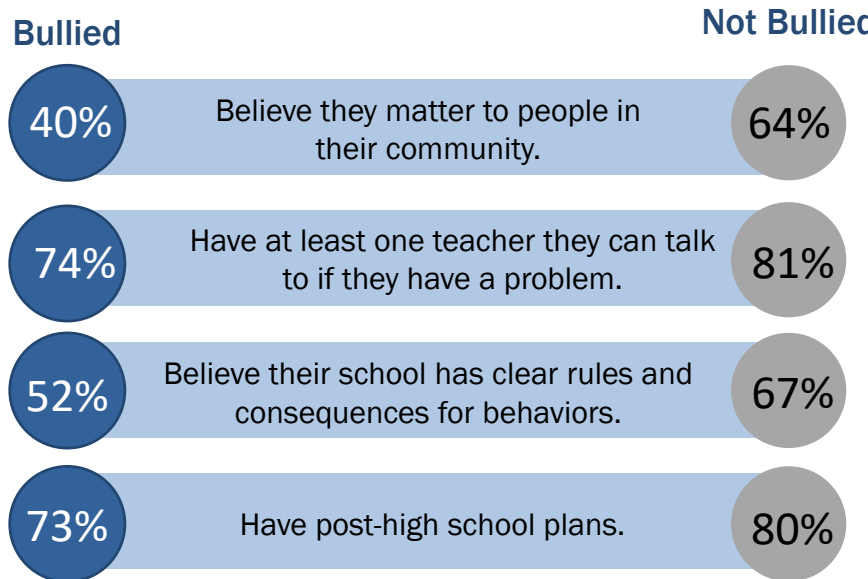
Nearly 1.5 times as likely to *use alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, or prescription drugs* during the past 30 days.

Source: 2017 VT Youth Risk Behavior Survey



Improving school climate can help prevent bullying.

Students bullied during the past 30 days are significantly less likely to feel connected to people at school and in their community than their peers. They are also less likely to have plans to complete a post-high school program.



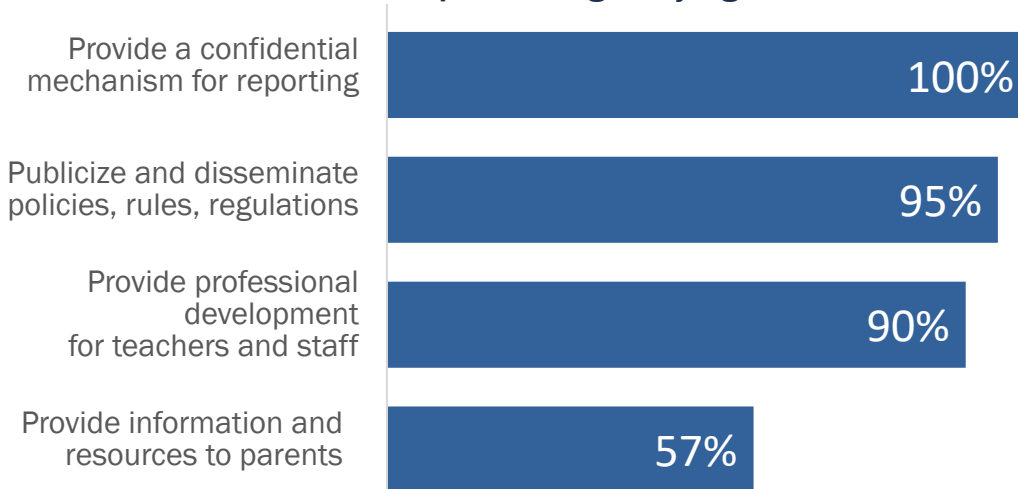
Source: 2017 VT Youth Risk Behavior Survey



What schools are doing.

In 2018, 44% of high schools reported implementing all four policies related to preventing bullying and sexual harassment shown below.

Policies related to preventing bullying and sexual harassment.



Source: 2018 VT School Health Profiles

¹ For more information about bullying and what you can do visit: <https://www.stopbullying.gov/>

² For more information about the YRBS and School Health Profiles visit: <http://www.healthvermont.gov/stats/surveys>
Or contact Kristen Murray, PhD, YRBS Coordinator at Kristen.murray@vermont.gov