

BY ALEXANDRIA CITY HIGH SCHOOL



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TOPIC

Bullying in ACHS

TOPIC DESCRIPTION

The issue is bullying and weak bullying reporting systems at ACHS. Students are affected because bullying can harm mental health, learning, confidence, and school safety. Some students do not feel comfortable reporting bullying because they fear retaliation or believe nothing will happen. This issue matters at ACHS because students should feel safe and supported at school.

BASELINE DATA & GOAL

We surveyed 27 students.

Baseline Data: Only 51.9% of students said the current bullying reporting system works.

Goal: Increase student trust in the bullying reporting system from 51.9% to 70% by improving anonymous reporting and awareness at ACHS

CYCP GOAL & STRATEGIC AREA

CYCP Goal: Safe, Supported, and Connected Youth

Connection: This issue connects to the CYCP because bullying affects student safety, mental health, and school connection. Improving reporting systems can help students feel safer and more supported.

WHAT IS HAPPENING RIGHT NOW?

Yes — 66.7%

No — 18.5%

Maybe — 14.8%

What does this data show?

Most students support anonymous reporting systems.

Why does this matter?

Students may report bullying more often if they feel safer and more private.

Yes — 51.9%

No — 25.9%

Not Sure — 22.2%

What does this data show?

Many students do not fully trust or understand the current system.

Why does this matter?

If students do not trust reporting systems, bullying may go unreported.

Yes — 48.1%

No — 40.7%

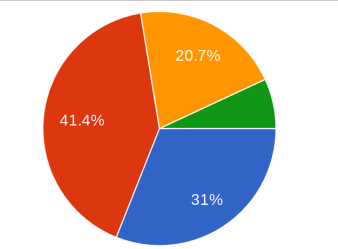
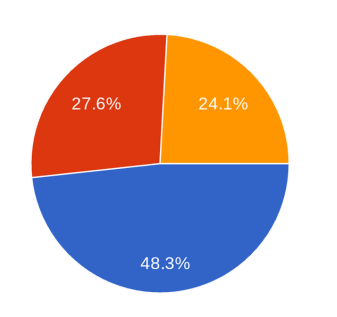
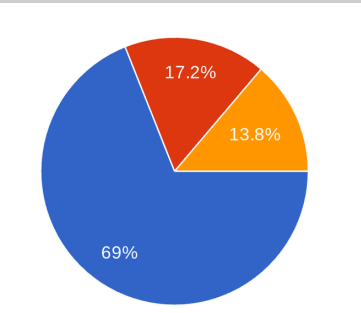
Not Sure — 11.1%

What does this data show?

Almost half of surveyed students said they have seen bullying.

Why does this matter?

Bullying is still affecting students and should be addressed.



IS IT ACTUALLY HELPING?

Some systems help, but results are mixed. Our survey showed only 51.9% of students believe the system works. Open-ended responses showed that students still fear reporting, lack trust, or believe nothing will change.

WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN TRIED?

ACHS already has bullying policies, counselors, administrators, teachers, and school security to respond to bullying issues. Students can report incidents to trusted adults or administrators.

WHO CAN HELP?

Stakeholder 1: ACHS Administration

How can they help?
Administration can approve reporting changes, increase awareness, and improve follow-up after reports.

Stakeholder 2: School Security

How can they help?
School security can respond to reports, monitor problem areas, and help keep students safe.



WHAT HAS BEEN DONE SO FAR?

ACHS already has bullying rules, teachers, counselors, school security, and administrators students can report to. The quantity of support is there because students have multiple adults they can go to.

The quality is not strong enough because students still do not fully trust or understand the system.

IS IT ACTUALLY HELPING?

It is helping a little, but not enough. In our survey, only 51.9% of students said the current system works, while 25.9% said no and 22.2% were not sure. Also, 48.1% of students said they have seen bullying at ACHS.

This shows that students are not fully better off yet because bullying still happens and many students still want safer reporting options. Since 66.7% supported anonymous reporting, ACHS needs a stronger anonymous system to make a bigger difference.

WHAT SHOULD CHANGE? (YOUR SOLUTION)

Our solution is to create a stronger anonymous bullying reporting system at ACHS.

- This solution would include:
- QR code reporting system
 - Anonymous online reporting form
 - Better awareness about how to report
 - Clearer follow-up after reports

Survey data support this solution. 66.7% of students supported anonymous reporting systems. In open-ended responses, students said they stay quiet because of fear, lack of trust, and embarrassment. Students also suggested anonymous systems, better awareness, and trusted adults.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN NEXT?

- If your solution is used, what will improve?
- Who will benefit and how?

CITATIONS

ICenters for Disease Control and Prevention. (2024). Youth Risk Behavior Survey Data Summary & Trends Report. f_your solution is used what will improve?

Who will benefit and how?
StopBullying.gov. (2025). Bullying Prevention Resources. f_your solution is used, what will improve?

Who will benefit and how?
Alexandria City Public Schools. (2025). Student Handbook. f_your solution is used, what will improve?

Who will benefit and how?

LEARN MORE

- StopBullying.gov
- CDC Youth Risk Behavior Survey
- ACPS Student Handbook
- Teen Wellness Center Resources