

BULLYING AND HARASSMENTS IN SCHOOLS: A PANDEMIC

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Bullying, sexual harassment, abuse, and online harassment in grades K-12, particularly among transgender, non-binary, or gender non-conforming post-secondary students on the internet, have been on the rise in recent years. Still, the COVID-19 global pandemic appears to be amplifying the problem. Many schools are at a loss about how to deal with the issue. Many parents have decided not to send their children to school because of an upsurge in racially motivated attacks, bullying, and harassment. Many people are also concerned about an increase in sexual assault and harassment due to students' lack of private access to instructors and counselors to express their complaints and concerns.

The pandemic's complete impact on students regarding sexual harassment, bullying, and discrimination is unknown, but the school's role in these instances is. Following the laws can assist in keeping children safe from harassment, bullying, and discrimination. Making and ensuring proactiveness with harassment, misconduct, bullying, and discrimination compliance training is the best place to start. It can help lessen the risk of these occurrences occurring at your school by teaching every student, parent, teacher, and staff member how to recognize, report, and address situations.

Strategic training also aids in the closure of susceptible areas, such as one-on-one time with teachers or employees, which can lead to sexual misbehavior. Proper supervision will protect your school from litigation, but it will also help guarantee that children receive the care possible in all of life's aspects.

You may not always be able to defend your kids' well-being as an educator. Still, with proactive training, you may be able to help counteract some of the challenges children face in a post-COVID environment.

References:

Allison, T. Dovi, Ph.D., "Sexual Harassment and Sexual Bullying," kidshealth.org

Sherri Gordon, "What Is Sexual Bullying and Why Do Kids Engage in It?," verywellfamily.com.