



# THURSDAY THOUGHTS

on Behavioral Health & Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (I/DD)

Issue 17- November 18, 2022

## Bullying & Youth with an I/DD

95% of 6 to 21 year old students with disabilities were served in public schools in 2017.

Children with I/DD are at an increased risk of being bullied. Any number of factors may increase the risk, factors include:

- physical vulnerability,
- social skill challenges, and/or
- intolerant environments.

Research suggests that some children with disabilities may bully others as well.

Anti-BULLYING Week

For more information visit: [Stopbullying.gov](http://Stopbullying.gov) or scan the QR code.

## Creating a Safe Environment

Young people with special needs may benefit from, both individualized & class wide approaches to address the specific effects of their condition & prevent them from becoming the target or perpetrator of bullying. Teachers, school staff, & other students need to understand the specific impairments of a child's health condition, so that they can develop strategies & supports to help them participate & succeed in class & with their peers.

## What You Can do to STOP BULLYING

Strategies to address student's special needs at school can help prevent bullying & have positive outcomes for ALL students, especially tactics that use a team approach, foster peer relationships, & help students develop empathy. Strategies include:

- Engaging students in developing high-interest activities in which everyone has a role to play in designing, executing or participating in the activity.
- Providing general up-front information to peers about the kinds of support children with special needs require, & have adults facilitate peer support.
- Creating a buddy system for children with special needs.
- Involving students in adaptive strategies in the classroom so that they participate in assisting & understanding the needs of others.
- Conducting team-based learning activities & rotate student groupings.
- Implementing social-emotional learning activities.
- Rewarding positive, helpful, inclusive behavior.

Get involved in developing content and providing feedback by emailing [Jessica.Bounds@dmh.mo.gov](mailto:Jessica.Bounds@dmh.mo.gov)

Check out past issues by clicking on the link: [DBH Thursday Thoughts](#) or [DD Mental Health Mondays](#).

