Safe Schools in New Mexico
Reality Check & Moving Forward

presented by

New Mexico
SAFE SCHOOLS INITIATIVE
Who We Are

Equality New Mexico
IMPACT Personal Safety
New Mexico GSA Network
Prevention at Play
Solace Crisis Treatment Center
Transgender Resource Center of New Mexico
POP QUIZ

Bullying in New Mexico Schools

(REALITY CHECK)
How many New Mexico public and charter school students miss school each month because they feel UNSAFE?

A. 1,000 or less
B. 2,500–5,000
C. 7,500–10,000
★ D. Over 10,000

10,400 NEW MEXICO STUDENTS miss school each month because they FEEL UNSAFE. We think that's too many, don't you?

Paid for by the New Mexico Safe Schools Initiative
How many incidents of bullying and harassment in New Mexico public and charter schools go unreported every year?

A. 5,000 or less
B. 10,000–25,000
C. 25,000–50,000
D. Over 50,000

★ D. Over 50,000

Percent (%) of incidents accounted for by NM PED
What percentage of New Mexico public and charter schools have noncompliant bullying prevention policies?

A. 5-20%
B. 25-45%
C. 50-75%
D. Over 80%

- Do not comply with Title IX (G.I.): 91%
- Do not comply with federal reporting timelines: 36%
- Do not comply with state statute (S.O.): 17%
- Don't have a policy or just have a statement: 26%
What percent of bullying-related disciplinary actions result in suspension or expulsion from school each year?

A. 10%
B. 30%
C. 50%
★
D. 70%
How Did This Happen?

- Bare bones law
- Little and inconsistent guidance for schools
- No reporting requirements
- Lack of accountability between districts and PED
- No funding
- Poor implementation
So This Is What We Did...

- Formed the NM Safe Schools Initiative, funded for 3 years
- Conducted statewide research; analyzed data
- Developed “Stories Inspiring Art” awareness program
- Introduced the Safe Schools for All Students Act (SB 393)
- Local policy initiatives
- Trainings & Workshops
Safe Schools for All Students Act

- SB 393; introduced in 2015 by Senator Soules (D-Doña Ana)
- Brings New Mexico’s state bullying prevention statute into compliance with state and federal laws
- Defines “progressive discipline” in a restorative frame
- Requires regular reporting by school districts to PED; requires annual reporting by PED to the Legislature
- Provides clear guidance to districts for comprehensive model policy development and implementation
Who’s Most At Risk?

LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer & questioning) students

- LGB students - 2x the rate of bullying incidents (NM)
- 78% of trans* and gender non-conforming students report school-based harassment (US)

Students of color

- African American female students are suspended or expelled 3x more often than white female students; African American males: 2x more often

Imagine if 78% of straight students were harassed for being straight...
Who’s Most At Risk?

**Undocumented Students**
- 46% of undocumented students who arrived at age 14 or older have not completed high school
- 28% of undocumented students who arrived before age 14 have not completed high school

**DOCUMENTED = 15%**  **U.S.-BORN = 8%**

**Students with Disabilities**
- Students with disabilities are suspended or expelled at a rate of 12%, compared to 7% of students without disabilities (NM)
- 60% of students with disabilities report being bullied at school (US)
Bullying & School Push-Out: What’s the Connection?

School pushout refers to school policies, practices, and procedures that make it more likely for students to leave school instead of finish it.

LGBTQ students, students of color, immigrant students, and students with disabilities are much more likely to be impacted by “zero tolerance” policies, harsh discipline, bullying and harassment, and schools with lots of police but little money or resources.

They are then more likely to end up in jail or juvenile detention.
CONTACT US!

Jenn Jevertson
jenn@preventionatplay.com

Amber Royster
amber@eqnm.org