



Stand Up to Cyberbullies and Give Children a Safe Place to Learn

When kids are bullied, it can rob them of their safety and ability to learn in school. Georgia law currently prohibits “traditional” bullying that occurs on school property or at school functions. However, with the increased use of the internet, cell phones, and Facebook, more and more kids are getting “Cyberbullied” and hurt outside of school. Currently, Georgia laws do not protect children against cyberbullying when it happens outside of school or through the use of personal cellphones and computers.

- Persistent and serious bullying results in lowered school performance, a loss of safety or a feeling of intimidation in school. And not providing safeguards for [our](#) children can lead to extremely tragic results: a Yale University study found that [bullying victims were two to nine times more likely to report suicidal thoughts than other children were.](#)
- Asian American students are being bullied more, and cyberbullied more often, than every other major race group. According to a [2009 US Department of Education Survey](#), the percentage of Asian students who reported being bullied was higher than any other major race group. Asian students also reported being cyberbullied four times more often than the average student population. Another study revealed that the kind of bullying tactic more frequently used on Asian versus other students was [racist hate speech.](#)
- Cyberbullying results in more harm than traditional bullying. Kids that have been cyberbullied are more likely to get involved in fights compared to kids that suffer from traditional bullying in school according to the Department of Education. Moreover, children that have been cyberbullied report feeling greater fear in terms of their safety in school than children that have been bullied.
- Communication and cultural barriers make it harder for schools to prevent and respond to bullying of immigrant children. Schools often lack the language and staffing resources to respond effectively when immigrant students report incidents of cyberbullying. Problems are most likely to happen in schools that are [dealing with a quickly changing student body](#) like many schools in Atlanta. Educators need to provide support so that our children can learn.

Asian students are being bullied because of their race and being subjected to intolerable circumstances both in and out of their schools. We should all do our part to prevent cyberbullying and advocate for stronger laws to protect the well being of our children.

For more information, visit www.advancingjustice-atlanta.org