



South Philadelphia High School Incident

On December 3rd, 2009, a dozen students rushed into a classroom, beat an Asian student and threw a desk on top of him. In the cafeteria, a group of Asian students were punched and kicked by a mob while onlookers cheered. Throughout that day, roving gangs of high-schoolers searched for, bullied and attacked 26 Asian teenagers in a nightmarish ordeal while teachers, security guards and other staff were present. Thirteen Asian students ended up in the emergency room. Asian students are often thought to be meek and easy targets for bullies. Georgia must take a proactive approach to protect Georgia's youth.



ASIAN AMERICANS
**ADVANCING
JUSTICE**
ATLANTA

AAAJ is the first non-profit law center dedicated to promoting the civil, social and economic rights of Asian Americans, Pacific Islanders, and Asian-ethnic refugees in Georgia and the Southeast.

Our goal is to engage, educate and empower under-represented immigrants and refugees to greater civic participation. Our vision is a social movement where individuals are fully empowered, active in civic life, and working together to promote equity and fair treatment for all.

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Gaps in Current Georgia Bullying Law

- Fails to protect students from the most common forms of cyberbullying
- Fails to provide adequate teacher training to help teachers identify, prevent, and resolve bullying
- Fails to address the linguistic challenges of new immigrant parents in quickly diversifying schools

Stop the Cyberbullying Epidemic

Protecting Children
Should Be Our Top Priority

Building Power For Good

Bullying is an Epidemic

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, bullying is a public health problem and is a form of youth violence. Bullying can result in physical injury, social and emotional distress, and even death.

- Over 5.7 million school-aged children are estimated to be involved in bullying either as targets, aggressors, or both.
- 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 in the classroom, and cyberbullied more often, than every other major race group.**
- Asian American students are often considered “foreign” despite how many generations their families have lived in the U.S.

Addressing Cyberbullying

Surveys indicate that as many as 30% of active online users have been the victim of cyberbullying

- Samuel McQuade et al., [Cyber Bullying](#)

CYBERBULLYING IS A WIDE-SPREAD AND SERIOUS ISSUE

- More than 80% of teens use cell phones regularly.
- Nearly 43% of kids have been bullied online.
- 70% of students report seeing frequent cyberbullying.



CYBERBULLYING OCCURS 24/7

Unlike regular bullying, cyberbullying follows youth everywhere they go. It happens 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Cyberbullying reaches children even when he or she is alone.



ANONYMITY MAKES CYBERBULLYING EASIER

Messages and images can be posted anonymously so cyberbullies feel protected. 81% of teens think bullying online is easier to hide than traditional bullying.



QUICKLY DISSEMINATED AND ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO RETRACT

Deleting harassing messages, texts, and pictures is extremely difficult after they have been posted, especially given how quickly and broadly those messages are spread.



“He just got to the point where he didn’t want me to get involved anymore because nothing was done.”

- parent of a fifth-grade target of bullying who committed suicide

Addressing Professional Training

Research has shown that teachers are the key agents of change in bullying prevention

TEACHERS FEEL HELPLESS

- Most teachers believe there are not enough policies or training in place to empower them to intervene in bullying situations.

WE MUST BUILD EDUCATORS’ SKILLS TO IDENTIFY, PREVENT, AND RESOLVE BULLYING

- Research shows that with proper training and support, teachers feel more confident addressing bullying and students believe teachers are more likely to intervene in bullying situations.

“Teachers do care, and we want to intervene to stop bullying, but we feel like we just don’t know how to respond in a way that will be effective and not make the situation worse for the target. We really need more training on how to most effectively intervene in bullying incidents.” - a metro Atlanta educator.

