**Main Points**

1. School climate is predictive of SOL performance and dropout rates.
2. Peer reports are better than self-reports in identifying victims of bullying.

**School climate has a pervasive effect on school discipline and academic performance.**

The prevalence of bullying and teasing in a school is an important aspect of school climate.

**Virginia High School Safety Study**

Conducted by the Curry School of Education

In collaboration with:
- Virginia Department of Education
- Department of Criminal Justice Services and Center for School Safety

Funded by U.S. Dept. of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

**Virginia High School Safety Study**

Who participated in the study?

- 296 of 314 schools (94%)
- 1. 7,431 ninth grade students
- 2. 2,353 ninth grade teachers

**Bullying And Teasing Climate Scale**

- Bullying is a problem at this school.
- Students here often get teased about their clothing or physical appearance.
- Students here often get put down because of their race or ethnicity.
- There is a lot of teasing about sexual topics at this school.

- Stable factor structure
- Reliable measure for males and females, grades 6-12, white and minority students
- Teacher and student versions
School Climate and Victims of Bullying
Dewey Cornell

Virginia High School Safety Study
Bullying and teasing reported by 9th grade students and teachers predicted schoolwide SOL passing rates.
- Algebra I
- Earth Science
- World history
- Biology
- Geometry

Findings controlled for the proportion of minority students in the school, student poverty, or school size.

Bullying and teasing in 9th grade predicted schoolwide graduation rates 4 years later.

School Climate Points
1. The prevalence of bullying and teasing in a school is related to school academic performance.
2. School climate is as powerful a predictor as the demographics of the school.
3. Unlike demographics, school climate can be changed.

Main Points
1. School climate is predictive of SOL performance and dropout rates.
2. Peer reports are better than self-reports in identifying victims of bullying.

This work was undertaken as part of the Albemarle/Charlottesville Safe Schools/Healthy Students project.
Main objective was to reduce bullying.
Research was a secondary product.

Bullied at School in the Past Month
27% report being bullied at least once in past 30 days. n = 3,387
Traditional self-report is convenient, but unsatisfactory:
1. Cannot confirm that students are using the concept of bullying correctly.
2. We can’t help the victims if we do not know who they are.

Peer Nominations – An Alternative to Self-Report

- Students are best able to tell us who is being bullied, but they are reluctant to share this information openly.
- We have 10 years of experience with using peer nominations, in which students are asked to write down the names of victims.
- Counselors then follow up with the students who have been repeatedly nominated.

Peer Support Survey

Who is being bullied?
Help us stop bullying at this school.

Bullying is defined as the use of one’s strength or popularity to injure, threaten, or embarrass another person. Bullying can be physical, verbal, or social. Physical bullying is when a student hits, kicks, grabs, or shoves you on purpose. Verbal bullying is when a student threatens or teases you in a hurtful way. Social bullying is when a student tries to keep others from being your friend or from letting you join in what they are doing. It is not bullying when two students of about the same strength argue or fight.

Based on this definition of bullying, write the names of any students who are the victims of bullying. You may write the name of any student at your school whom you know has been bullied at school during the past month.
___________________________________
___________________________________
___________________________________
___________________________________
Counselors used a common standard for interviewing students and determining whether they were victims of bullying.

159 (27%) of 593 students identified by counselors as victims of bullying.
School Climate and Victims of Bullying
Dewey Cornell

June 20, 2012

How many victims of bullying were still being bullied 4 weeks later?

Peer noms allow you to identify victims of bullying (and other forms of peer conflict) for immediate intervention.

Peer noms allow you to measure your success directly, rather than wait for an annual survey.

59% reduction in bullying (from 104 to 43)
Peer noms demonstrate a school’s commitment to helping victims of bullying.