



Foreword

Many of us can remember riding the school bus to and from school. For some, those memories are pleasant: spending time with friends, telling jokes, talking about school events. For others, thinking about school buses brings back painful memories of being bullied by more powerful peers.

As principal of Lynnwood Elementary School and creator of the *Peaceful School Bus Program*, James Dillon has learned that many discipline problems at school originate on the school bus and are the direct result of student bullying—where one or more students intentionally and over time use their power to bully others.

Using the principle that everyone has a responsibility to end bullying in school, the *Peaceful School Bus Program* brings together administrators, bus drivers, teachers, parents, and students to discuss the dynamics of school bus bullying and its solution. This program takes the problem of school bus bullying seriously and creates practical strategies to deal with the issue that any school can implement. The program can also extend a school's use of the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program to the bus environment.

Safe and welcoming schools take seriously the research about how destructive bullying behaviors can be to all involved. They change the attitudes of supervising adults who think that “nothing can be done” about destructive bus behavior and give everyone (adults and students) the skills to act appropriately to bring bullying to an end.

It is important to note that this program contributes to positive community building. Students learn to recognize and work through bullying situations and learn clearly that it is everyone's responsibility to support and help each other up—not to tear each other down.

In trainings for the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, we have often recommended the *Peaceful School Bus Program* to school coordinating committees. It has been a joy to watch this program make a positive difference in many schools that are committed to the safety and well-being of their students.

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