

Austin's Story

On December 15, 2011, my son Austin was physically bullied by his 7th grade teacher. He was shoved from behind, lost his balance, and hit his head on the corner of a metal shelf.

The teachers response to her action, as testified by my son, was "a mean glare and she walked away." This teacher never sent my son to the school nurse for evaluation. That evening, a local E.R. reported a deep contusion and laceration on the temporal area of his head.

I was shocked to discover that there is NO protocol for removing teachers or staff from the school environment pending charges of abuse or misconduct. This teacher was allowed to teach the following day despite the battery charges that we filed against her. My son refused returning to school because he said he, "was afraid of what she was going to do or say to me for telling on her."

I received phone calls from parents who had reported this teacher verbally belittling, shaming, and intimidating their students from many years gone by. Their attempts to report her behavior to the Blue Valley School District and ultimately remove her from teaching were not successful. This teacher had a history and a pattern of verbal abuse and intimidation that had advanced to physical abuse and intimidation.

If our law has a procedure for protecting a teacher from a student, it should reciprocate the same procedure protecting a STUDENT from a TEACHER. We must make these teachers accountable for their actions. We must listen to the children when they speak up for themselves and others.

Our kids should be emotionally and physically safe from WORDS and ACTIONS used as WEAPONS inside our schools. Emotional trauma from teacher bullying wounds the soul of a child, and negates the values of TRUST and RESPECT toward adults that we instill in our children. Please protect ALL our Kansas students from Teacher-to-Student bullying.

These stories are REAL, they are ONGOING, and we need to make the bullying STOP!

Lynnette Ambrosio
Overland Park, Kansas