





### Supporting students, parents, and districts through accountability.

Racism and discrimination are everywhere in our schools and communities. Bullying is out of control and school districts need to be held accountable. As parents, let's band together to raise the bar on eliminating racism, discrimination, and bullying in our schools.

Learn more Sign-up for Communications and Events from Parents Against

Incidents are ignored, not seen, or mismanaged on a daily basis. Silence and a lack of complete response facilitates traumatization and enables offenders. These are quotes from Prior Lake High School parents and students

### https://parentsagainst.wordpress.com/about/





Bringing awareness, raising standards and holding those responsible accountable. Racism, descrimination and bullying are zero-tolerance issues. Our students and parents feel ignored, marginalized and abused.

Do something about it.



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### **Student Stories**

## Shocking...but not surprising

The stories below are real. Unfortunately. These stories are from the traumatized. From the marginalized. Students who have been treated like no human should have to endure. Stand behind them, believe them and STEP FORWARD when you witness these injustices. Stories just like these happen every single day in the community, hallways, and classrooms.

Learn how students in several MN School Districts have experienced • State of MN Disciplinary Action Data racism, discrimination, and bullying.

- Payton's Story 19 Years Old Prior Lake High School
- Mya's Story 16 Prior Lake High School

Learn how students in several MN School Districts have experienced racism, discrimination, and bullying.

- Payton's Story 19 Years Old Prior Lake High School
- Mya's Story 16 Prior Lake High School
- Allie's Story 19 Prior Lake High School
- River Negrete's Story 12 (7th Grade) McGuire Middle School Lakeville Schools
- Elizabeth's Story 17 Prior Lake High School (Coming Soon)
- CJ 17 Richfield High School (Coming Soon)
- V 18 Edina High School (Coming Soon)
- Nautica 19 Eagan High School (Coming Soon)
- Anneteke Woodbury High School (Coming Soon)

Do you have a story you'd like to share? Let us know!

Are you or someone you know getting bullied and need help? Contact us for assistance.

#### **RESOURCES**

- Star Tribune Article about Student Stories
- Stop Bullying.gov
- Stop Bullying State of MN
- State of MN Safe and Supportive Schools Act
- State of MN Procedures for Reporting Noncompliance of Bullving
- The Law MN Section 121A.031

- · Pacer's National Bullying Prevention Center
- PLSAS School Board Policy Bullying Prevention
- PLSAS School Board Policy Student Discipline
- Georgetown Parents Anti-Racism Toolkit
- MN District 287 Racial Equity Impact Analysis Tool
- The Law MN Section 121A.031
  - . The Law MN Requirements
  - State of MN Disciplinary Action Data
  - · Pacer's National Bullying Prevention Center
  - PLSAS School Board Policy Bullying Prevention
  - PLSAS School Board Policy Student Discipline · Georgetown - Parents Anti-Racism Toolkit
  - MN District 287 Racial Equity Impact Analysis Tool



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### Racism, Discrimination and Bullying in Schools

### What does this look and feel like?

The last school to be desegregated in the United States was in Cleveland, Mississippi in 2016. Yes....2016.

Racism, discrimination, and bullying go hand in hand...identify it and correct the behavior. Stay silent and you're enabling the offenders and condemning victims.

Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. Both kids who are bullied and who • Georgetown - Parents Anti-Racism Toolkit bully others may have serious, lasting problems.

### **RESOURCES**

- Stop Bullying.gov
- Stop Bullying State of MN
- State of MN Safe and Supportive Schools Act
- State of MN Procedures for Reporting Noncompliance of Bullying
- The Law MN Section 121A.031
- . The Law MN Requirements
- State of MN Disciplinary Action Data
- Pacer's National Bullying Prevention Center
- · PLSAS School Board Policy Bullying Prevention
- PLSAS School Board Policy Student Discipline
- MN District 287 Racial Equity Impact Analysis Tool

### **EXAMPLES**

perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. Both kids who are bullied and who bully others may have <u>serious</u>, <u>lasting problems</u>.

Racism and discrimination is the act of making unjustified distinctions between people based on the groups, classes, or other categories to which they belong or are perceived to belong. As a result of those perceptions, treating a person differently, addressing them with racist or derogatory language, filming and posting hate-filled content directed at groups or people who otherwise are no different than any other human being.

People may be discriminated on the basis of race, gender, age, religion, or sexual orientation, as well as other categories.

Ignoring reported incidents that are of racist, discriminatory or bullying nature could be considered unlawful. It is the duty of our parents, educators and every community member to speak up and not sweep these events under a rug or hope they just go away.

Ignoring and mis-managing the issue of reported actions leads to a deeper mental health crisis of our students and widens the gap of discriminatory behavior enabling offenders to continue forward without consequence.

This is how people are perpetuating racism and discrimination in 2022.

- PLSAS School Board Policy Bullying Prevention
- PLSAS School Board Policy Student Discipline
- Georgetown Parents Anti-Racism Toolkit
- MN District 287 Racial Equity Impact Analysis Tool

### **EXAMPLES**

- Jokes which marginalize a person because of their skin color.
- Referencing native or indigenous people groups as "savages"
- Questioning someone's religion, political affiliation, support for political parties or individuals. personal relationships and other opinions of events with an intent to be critical becuase of someone's cultural background
- An offender attempting to claim victim or flip blame such as "they assaulted me" when they were the agressor
- · Using racial slurs in any form verbally or otherwise.
- Not respecting someone's boundaries upon request.
   For example, if a word in a book is uncomfortable...
   don't force it to be heard.
- Making noises or staring at someone becuase they dress differently.
- Ganging up on someone with a group singling out their look, gender choice, sexuality.
- Taking pictures or videos and sending them around making comment on how someone looks.
- Special treatment of an individual that intentionally singles out other students of a different type.
- Punishing victims or people/students who report issues.

### https://parentsagainst.wordpress.com/labtai-and-bullving-in-schools/



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### LGBTQI+ and Bullying in Schools

Lesbian, gav. bisexual, transgender, gueer, intersex, nonbinary or otherwise gender non-conforming (LGBTQI+) youth and those perceived as LGBTQI+ are at an increased risk of being bullied. Results from the 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) show that,

• Bullying in the LBGTQ- Community
• Step Bullying agaz
• Step Bullying - State of MN nationwide, more U.S. high school students who self-identify as lesbian, gay, or bisexual (LGB) report having been bullied on school property (32%) and cyberbullied (26.6%) in the past year than their straight peers (17.1% and 14.1%, respectively). The study also showed that more LGB students (13,5%) than straight students (7,5%) reported

not going to school because of safety concerns. Students who

identified as "not sure" of their sexual orientation also reported being identified as "not sure" of their sexual orientation also reported being bullied on school property (26.9%), being cyberbullied (19.4%), and not EXAMPLES going to school because of safety concerns (15.5%). (Source: https://www.stopbullying.gov/bullying/lgbtq)

A recent independent study that polled parents and students of Prior

- Using racial slurs in any form verbally or otherwise.

#### RESOURCES

- · State of MN Safe and Supportive Schools Act
- State of MN Procedures for Reporting
- Noncompliance of Bullying
  The Law MN Section 121A.031
  The Law MN Requirements

- · State of MN Disciplinary Action Data

- Jokes which marginalize a person because of their skin

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A recent independent study that polled parents and students of Prior Lake High School showed clear trends that the LGBTQI+ youth at PLHS • Not respecting someone's boundaries upon request. is harassed and discriminated against on a daily basis. Someone who identifies as different in this way may also choose to dress and express themselves in unique and creative ways. For example, having an interest in Emo, Anime, Furry or other popular teen trends shouldn't give other kids permission to gang up, verbally or physically attack and discriminate against students that identify with these trends.

### On a daily basis, students in the LBGTQ+ community are bullied and harassed at Prior Lake Savage Area Schools. This needs to stop.

"On a daily basis my partner and I are stared at, growled at, meowed at, barked at and more. People gang up on us. People corner us. All because we're gay and dress differently than they do. I like Anime and other nerdier things...and I shouldn't be bullied because of my preferences. Because we look "Emo" kids come up to us daily saying things like - 'Look at me...I'm going to kill myself'. It's not ok. This started to be more of a problem this year because I had the confidence to dress how I like to express myself. I've reported it and talk to the administration multiple times per week for myself and my partner...and some have stopped, but it seems like it never ends and it makes me not want to go to school. I don't feel safe."

Similar stories and articles about how bullying takes place within communities and schools:

- Using racial slurs in any form verbally or otherwise.
- · Agressors flipping blame and lying about their actions
- For example, if a word in a book is uncomfortable... don't force it to be heard.
- Making noises or staring at someone becuase they dress differently.
- . Ganging up on someone with a group singling out their look, gender choice, sexuality.
- · Taking pictures or videos and sending them around making comment on how someone looks.
- · Special treatment of an individual that intentionally singles out other students of a different type.
- Punishing victims or people/students who report

### https://parentsagainst.wordpress.com/prior-lake-savage-area-schools/



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### **PLSAS**

### Prior Lake-Savage Area Schools – It's Time for Accountability

PLSAS board, leadership, and administration are being called to accountability by parents. We expect follow-through, honesty, truthfulness, and completion. We expect you to take each and every incident that you report seriously and to full resolution. According to data collected both by the State of MN Department of Education and independently, you are failing the families in your district. Stop hiding situations, stop sweeping racism under the rug, stop thinking things are ok. They're not.

We expect more and higher standards.

### Click Here to Sign our Petition

The data below was independently gathered via a survey sent to a small group of parents. Around 70 survey responses were collected. No personal identification is collected as a part of this survey.

- 89% of responses came from parents. The other 11% from current or former students. Not all responders were required to fill out all questions.
- 28 respondants reported no incidents have occured while 41 respondants said that they've experienced an issue at PLHS
- · Severity of issues reported:
  - 40.58% No issues
  - 2.9% Very minor
  - 10.15% Minor issue, but still had an impact on my child
  - 20.29% Medium impact Affected them for more than 1 day...and also impacted their mental health, feeling of safety and interest in school
  - 20.29% High impact Significant impact requiring multiple parties be contacted with material lasting mental health concerns
  - 1.45% Vile/horrendous incident with significant mental and physical safety
- Resolution summary:
  - 40.58% reported no issues
  - 28.99% reported that issues were reported however nothing was resolved or there was a feeling that the school/district mishandled the situation

### Concerning patterns:

- In many cases, the reported bullying was severe enough to justify
  disciplinary action however in many cases the parents were not made
  aware of how the issues were addressed including feeling that in a number
  of cases issues were ignored, swept under the rug, "hands were tied" or
  excuses were made as to why accountability couldn't be delivered.
- In some cases, independent parties that reported the incident were revealed. Individuals who filmed altercations for proof were threatened with more severe punishment than the offenders.
- In other cases, it was suggested by the administration that the family leave the district for another school while the offender remains unpunished.
- Offenders who were proven to be at fault (violated academic standards for sports) were allowed to continue participating in activities while other students sat on the sidelines.
- Statements of constant racist language and a promise that it's not tolerated, however no follow-through by the administration at PLHS and other schools. This trend typically starts around 7th grade.
- Consistent views that from a communication perspective...most times
  parents get no communication from the administration on a gameplan or
  resolution forward.

The data below was collected from the Minnesota Department of Education reporting system regarding disciplinary actions taken by the

https://public.education.mn.gov/MDEAnalytics/DataTopic.jsp? TOPICID=133

### This data shows a concerning gap

- Between 2017-2019 (two school years), PLSAS reported 1 case of bullying and cyber-bullying.
- There are enough documented cases of bullying and racial targeting socially with mis-managed application of the law to suggest that PLSAS isn't reporting incidents properly or is filing them under a differnet classification.



Statistic of PLSAS incidents involving Threat, Bullying, Cyberbullying, Fighting, Harassment, Assault and other issues

### <u>Click Here for a Summary of Disciplinary Action data – Google Sheet</u> Document of Data



Visual diagram that shows the most common disciplinary action types within PLSAS

- Teri Staloch implied in a press conference (https://youtu.be/lwW9w5y WNw on 11/11/2021 that PLSAS doesn't have as much flexibility to adjust curriculum to provide the diversity and inclusivity needed due to the State of MN standards – as "Our curriculum is actually the Minnesota Academic Standards. That's what we and every other school district is responsible for teaching students. So, you'll see within Academic Standards...whether it's Social Studies, Communications or some of our Health Standards you'll see that there is places that deal with both interactions with one other, certainly the historical context of racism in our society and those sorts of things. And that begins with our earliest learners, our preschool programs when we teach about respecting each other...and kindness and sharing. That goes through every curriculum level whether we're reading books and stories and the lessons that are in there about how do we interact with people, treat others with respect, how do we love others, how do we care for others. And then we get into some of the history of what happened. Certainly those Social Studies academics support some of the work we're doing."
  - Teri also referenced teaching the kids to "be nice to each other". Pre-



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### Examples of Bullying and Discrimination in MN Schools

### This problem isn't unique to Prior Lake Savage Area Schools. It's a Minnesota School District problem.

Current Examples of Situations within PLSAS and elsewhere

- 2022 ROCORI School District Superintendent resigns admidst Civil Lawsuit by parent of negligence. Parent sues ROCORI schools over accusations of racist bullying.
  - https://bringmethenews.com/minnesota-news/superintendent-of- $\underline{\text{district-that-is-currently-subject-of-racism-lawsuit-will-resign}}$
  - https://www.mprnews.org/story/2022/01/31/parent-sues-rocorischools-over-accusations-of-racist-bullying
- https://www.sctimes.com/story/news/2022/02/14/rocori-schools-https://bringmethenews.com/minnesota-news/superintendent-of-

district-that-is-currently-subject-of-racism-lawsuit-will-resign

- https://www.mprnews.org/story/2022/01/31/parent-sues-rocorischools-over-accusations-of-racist-bullying
- https://www.sctimes.com/story/news/2022/02/14/rocori-schools-
- superintendent-brad-kelvington-resigns
- PLSAS Student creates Racist Video
  - https://www.cnn.com/2021/12/05/us/racist-bullying-school-incidents
  - https://www.cnn.com/2021/11/15/us/minnesota-racist-rantinvestigation/index.html
  - https://www.fox9.com/news/at-a-loss-of-words-prior-lake-highschool-student-targeted-in-racist-video-speaks-out
  - https://www.kare11.com/article/news/local/prior-lake-high-schoolresponds-to-racist-video/89-bc4e4511-ceO5-4fe9-b289-
  - https://www.huffpost.com/entry/how-a-lynching-threatcam b 9944124/amp
- Univeristy of MN Psychology Expert's Perspective https://kstp.com/news/u-of-m-psychology-expert-discusses-impact-ofracist-prior-lake-video/6299419/
- Kare 11 Report that aired on the news https://youtu.be/1GJAgpGJtbM
- Prior Lake Savage Area Schools Press Conference –
- https://youtu.be/ERz2yq4M6VI
- 2021 School Board Member Racist Comment about a Teacher by referring to them as "an import"\_

https://www.swnewsmedia.com/prior\_lake\_american/news/education/prio r-lake-school-hoard-member-meets-with-teachers-union-apologizes







#### https://youtu.be/ERz2yq4M6VI

• 2021 – School Board Member Racist Comment about a Teacher by referring to them as "an import" -

https://www.swnewsmedia.com/prior lake american/news/education/prio r-lake-school-board-member-meets-with-teachers-union-apologizesfor-remark-about-teacher/

· Double standards within PLSAS School Board, Ionathan Drewes makes racist comment but isn't dealt any zero-tolerance actions -

https://www.swnewsmedia.com/prior\_lake\_american/news/opinion/letters\_ to the editor/letter-drewes-should-resign-from-school-

board/article 24abcb3a-5852-11ec-9e23-93c3fff75ef2.html

- 2015 Racism Incident at Prior Lake Savage Area Schools https://youtu.be/DFiHlz4p2Ll
- Another 2015 Incident from Prior Lake High Schoolhttps://www.huffpost.com/entry/how-a-lynching-threatcam b 9944124/amp
- 2022 Minnetonka High School Girls Varsity basketball coach resigns admin racism claims - https://bringmethenews.com/minnesotanews/coach-steps-away-basketball-game-off-amid-racism-claims-atminnetonka
- School Boards being Threatened (PLSAS had threats of gun violence at 2021 school board meetings at a result of pushing back on racism) –

https://www.reuters.com/investigates/special-report/usa-education-threats/

• Jean Marvin, the board chair in Rochester, Minnesota, said a barrage of threats there last year deeply unsettled her fellow board members and her own children: "They said, 'Mom, they're going to kill you. They know

where you live" her own children: "They said, 'Mom, they're going to kill you. They know where you live."

- In Rochester, Minnesota, members faced months of threats and outbursts at meetings over mask mandates, critical race theory and other hot-button issues. Marvin, the board president, said her son grew so concerned that he insisted on driving her to board meetings and waiting in the parking lot to ensure her safety.
- 2021 Armstrong High School Incident (Plymouth/Robinsdale, MN) https://www.kare11.com/article/news/education/armstrong-students-holdwalkout-over-alleged-racist-incident-involving-teacher/89-849825f9c9fb-4189-9524-196a263557f8
- Complaints of racism, bullying in central Minn. school district prompt calls for change
  - https://www.mprnews.org/story/2021/05/24/complaints-of-racism-<u>bullying-in-central-minn-school-district-prompt-calls-for-change</u>
- · Call for Diversification in Minnetonka Public Schools
  - https://www.change.org/p/dr-dennis-peterson-diversify-minnetonka-<u>public-school-s-curriculum?signed=true</u>
- Rochester Public Schools Petition for Change
- https://docs.google.com/document/u/1/d/1cZo1kjy6C\_OfgmLi9Oddmse  $\underline{wRISRiF\text{-}VsZMMb7ErX8Y/mobilebasic?urp=gmail\_link\&usp=gmail}$
- Lakeville Schools Incident (Staff member is still employed by the district in a position that interacts with kids) –

https://lakevilleparentsunited.org/2022/01/18/native-american-girl-says-

<u>lakeville-tutor-referred-to-her-people-as-savages/</u>

• Lack of diversity within Lakeville Schools -

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https://www.nometownsource.com/etk\_nver\_star\_news/moms-unite-after-losing-children-to-suicide/article\_e17f698c-209a-11ec-9c6a-a35ad046ac08.html

- Chaska Schools <a href="https://www.fox9.com/news/chaska-community-brings-concerns-of-racism-to-school-board">https://www.fox9.com/news/chaska-community-brings-concerns-of-racism-to-school-board</a>
- Eastern Carver County <a href="https://www.fox9.com/news/students-sue-eastern-carver-county-schools-over-racial-discrimination-concerns">https://www.fox9.com/news/students-sue-eastern-carver-county-schools-over-racial-discrimination-concerns</a>
- Duluth Charter Schools https://www.minnpost.com/education/2021/10/parents-say-a-duluth-charter-school-ignored-a-racially-hostile-environment-for-years/
- Richfield Public Schools
  - https://www.mprnews.org/story/2022/02/04/richfield-school-districtpleaded-for-student-mental-health-help-months-before-shooting
- https://www.minnpost.com/community-voices/2021/f1/toward-aneducation-of-reconciliation-why-the-prior-lake-student-video-matters/? fbclid=lwAR2aMxKOXpWLB\_SEITQJUzg5pzKJmUHcP4DrjnUjFQBUq\_7lvp\_Wb7SVddl
- District 287 uses Critical Race Theory to guide its school equity policies https://www.fox9.com/news/district-287-uses-critical-race-theory-toguide-its-school-equity-policies

There's hundreds...if not thousands of stories just like these.

Are you or someone you know getting bullied and need help? <u>Contact</u> <u>us for assistance.</u>

### https://parentsagainst.wordpress.com/resources/



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### Resources

### **Petitions**

Petition for Anti-Racist Education Reform in Prior Lake Savage Area Schools

Petition to Eliminate Unrestricted Cell Phone Usage in PLSAS

Tell the Truth

### Technology to Protect Your Family

<u>Bark – App that monitors social media and text messaging on your child's devices</u>

1Password - App that manages all your passwords and creates sophisticated

### Articles, Podcasts and Websites

<u>Southland – A podcast about Southlake, TX and their battle for equality around race and LGBTQ+ discrimination</u>

Books, articles, and more from the Anti-Racism Project

What Can I do About Racism? website

<u>Minnesota Education Equity Partnership</u> tools and resources for districts, schools and educators to supporting racial equity in distance learning

Anti-racism educational activities organized by Helms' stages of White Identity

Development

<u>An Essential Reading Guide For Fighting Racism</u> book list from BuzzFeed News

Racial justice events and learning library from YWCA St. Paul

TPT's Jim Crow of the North video

New York Times' 1619 Podcast

NPR's Code Switch: A Decade Of Watching Black People Die

<u>1Password – App that manages all your passwords and creates sophisticated</u> random ones so you don't get hacked

### Research, Studies and Medical Articles

<u>L1ight - Report on Hate Speech and Toxicity Online</u>

<u>Psychology Today - The Broad Impact of Bullying</u>

McGovern Medical School - Impact of Bullying on Mental Health

Medical News Today - Adult Impacts of Childhood Bullying

### Links and resources

SmartGivers Diversity, Equity and Inclusion toolkit

Racial Equity Resource Directory, from Minnesota Compass, listing racial equity programs and training providers for organizations and people working to combat racism and increase cultural competence

NPRS Code Switch: A Decade Of Watching Black People Die

<u>Confronting Prejudice: How to Protect Yourself and Help Others</u> from Pepperdine University

<u>Self-Care Tips for Black People Who Are Feeling Overwhelmed by Racism</u> by Rachel Wilkerson Miller for Vice

### Racial Equity Educational Resources for White Allies

#### What Can I do About Racism? website

<u>"For Our White Friends Desiring to Be Allies"</u>, article by Courtney Ariel in Sojourners Magazine

75 Things White People Can Do for Racial Justice

 $\underline{\textbf{Implicit Bias test}} \text{ from } \underline{\textbf{Project Implicit}}, \text{ a nonprofit educating the public about bias}$ 

Anti-racism educational activities organized by Helms' stages of White Identity, Development

'Raising White Kids' Author On How White Parents Can Talk About Race interview on NPR

### https://parentsagainst.wordpress.com/blog/



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## ROCORI School District – Threats of Lynching and Physical Attacks



# Minnetonka Schools – Get your story straight... support your students rather than clearly showing them you could care less.

Messages from the superintendent and then the High School send very different messages. Which do we believe?

First message from Dennis Peterson (Superintendent) – Admitting they have more work to do it great. This should be your response – 'The use of sturs and discriminatory and hurtful words have no place in our school district, and we will work hard ith our community to put an end to discrimination, wherever it emerges."

Ok\_ok..good start...

Email from the High School Principal about a protest speaking out against hate/racism — "Thank you for your patience. *We know this is disruptive....*"

 $\label{eq:decomposition} DISRUPTIVE...?\ How about a white student attacking a black student with hate speech and telling them to kill themself – that's disruptive.$ 

Oh..BTW – the black student has posted today that you're doing everything you can to shut this down. Including having a minor sign an NDA? WTF.

Indigenous and the service of the se

### When. Does. It. Stop?



### Yet another racist incident in MN Schools...

Show up at Minnetonka Public Schools Service Center to show support. Wednesday, February 16, 2022 at 1pm. The district attempted to get students to sign an NDA to silence them.

Via Lavish Mack (@lavishmack) on Instagram.

We will be outside Minnetonka HS supporting our young queens <a href="mailto:amylalocke">amylalocke</a> <a href="mailto:alondyniverson">amylalocke</a> <a href="mailto

we are demanding the school take immediate action and accountability.

Wednesday 1PM we will be outside of Minnetonka HS & March to The district service center a half mile away.

We will not sit back as little Karens think they can say whatever they want with no repercussions.

