

# Research Proposal: Analyzing Bullying Among Youth



**Mollie Lazar  
and  
Sara Carle**

## The PACER Center

The PACER Center is a Minneapolis nonprofit whose mission is to expand opportunities and enhance quality of life for children and young adults with disabilities. They provide information, support, workshops and referrals to families and professionals. Programs are available to Native American, African American, Hispanic/Latino, Somali and Southeast Asian communities. The PACER Center also has a Family-to-Family Health Information Center that provides resources and support for families whose children have disabilities and complex health care needs.

**“When we stand together no one stands alone!”**



## PACER Center's Definition Of Bullying

- The victim is being hurt or harmed with words or behavior
- It is done intentionally
- The victim is having a hard time defending themselves from the behavior
- The bully has more power than the victim

**“When someone tries to make you feel less about who you are as a person, and you aren't able to make it stop.”**

## PACER Center Events

The PACER center holds many events to raise awareness. For bullying, the PACER center holds a Run, Walk, Roll events along with Unity Day. Unity Day raises awareness to end bullying. Everyone can come together--in schools, communities, and online-- to show support through wearing orange.

## The PACER Center's Legislative Goals

PACER supports legislation to give youth with disabilities a fair opportunity in the classroom. They believe that schools should get rid of zero tolerance and extreme discipline measure's because they have proven to be ineffective and disproportionately given to kids with disabilities.

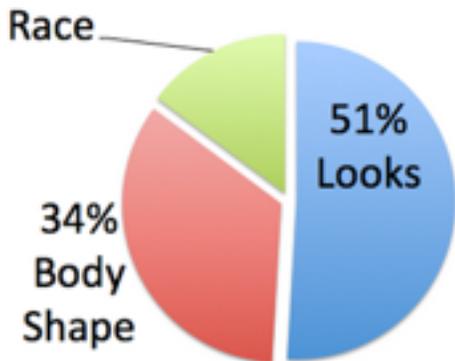
Teachers should have training in disabilities and their impact. An untrained teacher can accidentally escalate problem instead of helping. Another way to help is to improve the use of assistive technology in the classroom.

Finally, PACER seeks to increase state funding for special education.



# Previous Research

## 15% Reasons for Being Bullied



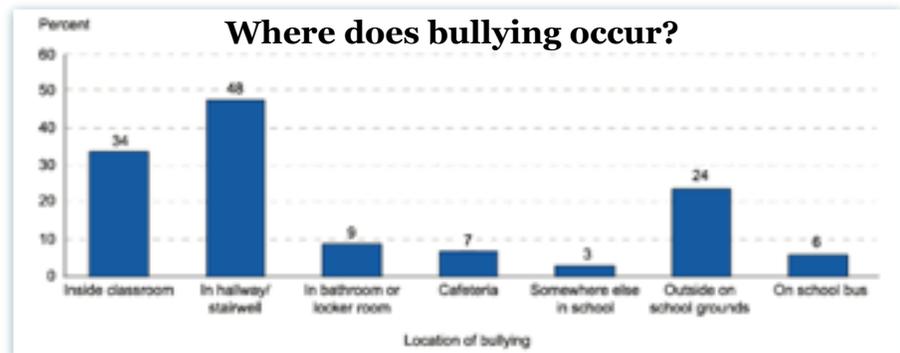
<http://www.pacer.org/bullying/about/media-kit/stats.asp>

## Where does bullying occur?

27.8% of students, with and without disabilities, report being bullied during the school year. 19.6% report being bullied at school, while 14.8% report the bullying as occurring on the internet, known as cyber-bullying.

Even more cases of bullying occur than reported. In the same PACER survey, it was reported that only 36% of kids who were bullied actually reported the incident, meaning that 64% of kids who were bullied did not report it or seek help. 55% of respondents said that they were bullied because of their looks, 37% said it was because of their body shape.

60% of students with disabilities report having been bullied, while only 25% of students without disabilities report being bullied.



## Why does this matter?

### Mental Health

- Students who experience bullying are at increased risk for depression, anxiety, and sleep difficulties.

### Physical Health

- Students who experience bullying are more likely to have headaches and stomachaches.

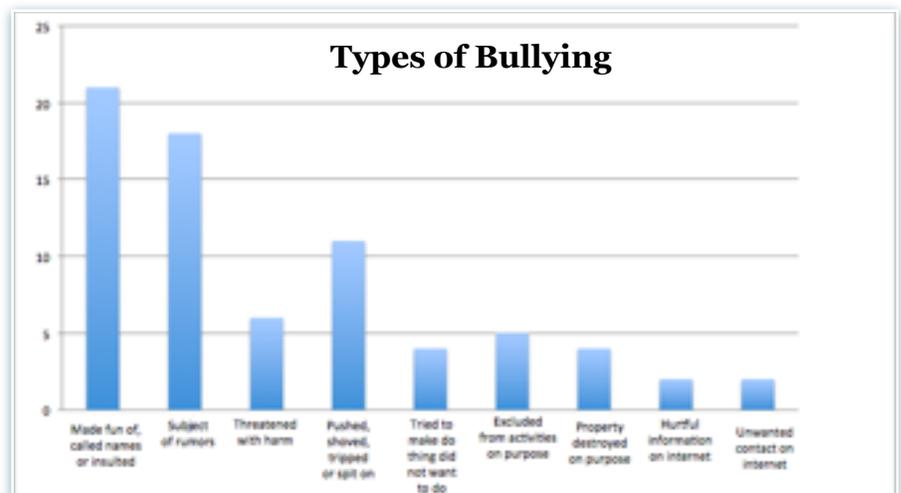
### Academic Performance

- Students who experience bullying tend to perform worse in school. They skip class or pay less attention to teachers.

## What Data Would We Like To Find?

Researchers would like to find a relationship between the bullying in youth with special needs versus youth without disabilities. The PACER Center's large pool of unanalyzed data will serve as a catalyst.

Researchers will send out a follow-up survey based on initial findings. This survey will include participants' self-identified diversity groups along with how often they are bullied, why they are, and by whom. These results will be used to compare types and frequency of bullying between groups.



# The Project Timeline

## **MAY**

Set up our research proposal

Get in contact with the pacer center

## **JUNE-AUGUST**

Get time on site with the PACER center

## **SEPTEMBER-DECEMBER**

Data analysis

Poster creation

Begin impact report and research paper

## **DECEMBER-MARCH**

Finish impact report and research paper

Create teaching workshops and the materials that require them

Have a workshop presentation set

# About the Researchers

Mollie Lazar and Sara Carle are senior at Breck School, in Golden Valley. They are interested in working with the PACER center because they believe bullying is prevalent in schools and affects all youth. They have volunteered with PACER before and are intrigued by their many anti-bullying campaigns.



[lazamo@student.breckschool.org](mailto:lazamo@student.breckschool.org)

[carlsa@student.breckschool.org](mailto:carlsa@student.breckschool.org)

# Research Questions

## **Does a student's disability affect their likelihood of being a victim of bullying?**

- Are youth with disabilities more prone to be victims?

## **Which methods are most effective at preventing bullying?**

- Does awareness really prevent bullying?

## **Are PACER's anti bullying methods successful?**

- Does their website effectively communicate with teens?
- Have bullying rates declined due to these efforts?

## **Do certain areas have more bullying than others?**

- Which areas and why?

## **Which groups are most affected by bullying?**

- Race, GLBT, immigrant, gender, age, religion

# Bibliography

"National Bullying Prevention Center - Run, Walk, Roll Against Bullying." National Bullying Prevention Center - Run, Walk, Roll Against Bullying. Pacer Center. Web. 27 May 2015. <<http://www.pacer.org/bullying/nbpm/RunWalkRoll/>>.

"UNITY DAY — Make It Orange and Make It End!" National Bullying Prevention Center. Pacer Center. Web. 27 May 2015. <<http://www.pacer.org/bullying/nbpm/unity-day.asp>>.

"Southern Poverty Law Center." Anti-Gay Hate Crimes: Doing the Math. Web. 27 May 2015. <<http://www.splcenter.org/get-informed/intelligence-report/browse-all-issues/2010/winter/anti-gay-hate-crimes-doing-the-math>>.

"Pacer Center State Legislative Goals." Pacer Center. Pacer Center. Web. <<http://www.pacer.org/legislation/2015PACERLegPriorities.pdf>>.