

# Bullying Prevention & Intervention: Realistic Strategies for Schools

Susan M. Swearer, Dorothy L. Espelage and Scott A. Napolitano, 2009

## Project Prevent and Address Bullying (PPAB)

for students with disabilities

BOOK  
REVIEW

Northern Illinois University | School Psychology Program

**COST:** \$25-\$40 New  
\$10-\$20 used on Amazon.com

**PUBLISHER:** The Guilford Press  
New York, NY, 2009

### Description:

In *Bullying Prevention & Intervention*, Swearer, Espelage, and Napolitano provide a compelling overview of bullying and what educators can do about it in their schools. Integrating research support throughout the chapters, the authors lay the groundwork for what schools can do to meet the challenges and demands of bullying. While this book is full of information useful to anybody concerned about bullying and how to support children, the focus here is educators and schools.

Swearer, Espelage and Napolitano use a broad approach that serves as a guide for educators. Rather than endorsing specific curricula or programs, the book gives schools the tools to choose their own path to combat bullying. The book is broken down into succinct, easy-to-read chapters that are understandable to those with and without prior knowledge of bullying. They further engage readers by providing case examples throughout the chapters that highlight key concepts.

I would highly recommend this book to school administrators, counselors, social-workers and psychologists. This book would be useful for anybody looking to expand their knowledge of the subject. Furthermore, this book would be especially helpful as a resource to those interested in starting, changing or evaluating bullying-focused SEL or PBIS curricula. While the book is solidly backed by quality research, it is a relatively short read (170 pages).

### Strengths:

- Succinct, easy-to-read chapters that are understandable from a lay-perspective .
- Great integration of research support.
- Uses a social-ecological perspective of bullying.
- Case examples are used throughout the chapters to highlight and connect key concepts.
- First three chapters provide a solid base on which the rest of the book builds (e.g., definitions, different theories and perspectives, overview of student roles in bullying).
- Whole chapters devoted to:
  - Developing a school policy for bullying.
  - Legal issues.
  - Cyberbullying and other technology related concerns.
  - How schools can use existing resources to combat bullying.

### Limitations:

- Highly targeted to educators, but specifically, administrators, counselors, social workers and school psychologists (i.e. not much for teachers).
- Borderline outdated (from 2009).
- Does not provide enough information about at-risk/marginalized groups.
- Does not endorse specific curricula.
- Limited overview of specific intervention strategies.

### Audience:

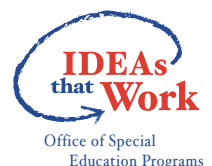
- Educators.



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