

Family Guide: Bullying

No parent wants to imagine their child being hurt or left out at school. But for too many families, bullying is a real and painful part of the school experience. At RevEd, a third of the calls to our AYUDAKC parent hotline are about bullying. This issue affects families in every school district in the Kansas City metro and across the country. Despite efforts to stop it, bullying remains a persistent challenge that schools often struggle to address effectively. If your child has come home upset, anxious, or avoiding school, you may be wondering what to do next. This guide is here to support you. You don't need a degree to advocate for your child - you need clear information, a plan, and the knowledge that you're not alone. At RevEd, we believe that every child deserves to feel safe, seen, and supported in the classroom.

Worried your child is being bullied at school?

You're not alone, and you have rights. This guide will help you:

- Understand what counts as bullying
- Learn what schools are required to do
- Take clear steps to protect your child
- Get support from RevEd and other resources

What Is Bullying?

Bullying is any behavior that:

- Hurts or scares your child, either physically or emotionally
- Repeats or is likely to repeat
- Makes your child feel unsafe, unwelcome, or unable to learn

Examples include:

- Physical harm or threats
- Teasing, name-calling, or spreading rumors
- Cyberbullying (mean texts, messages, or images online)
- Leaving someone out on purpose or encouraging others to do so

Cyberbullying happens through phones, computers, or other electronic devices.

What Schools Are Required to Do (Missouri Law)

- Every school must have an anti-bullying policy
- Every school must have a staff member in charge of handling bullying
- All staff must report bullying immediately if they see or hear about it
- The school must start investigating within 2 days and usually finish within 10
- Students who are bullied must be offered help from a counselor or support staff
- School staff must get annual anti-bullying training
- Your child must be protected from any backlash if bullying is reported

You can read the full Missouri law here: [RSMo 160.775](#)

What You Can Do: Advocate for Your Child

Here's how you can take action:

Step 1: Identify the Problem

- Write down what's happening, in your own words.
- Focus on what your child is experiencing and what needs to change.
- Include:
 - What happened?
 - Where and when did it happen?
 - Who was involved?
 - How did it affect your child?
 - What would help solve the issue?
 - Save any messages, screenshots, or notes as evidence.
 - Talk with your child about how to speak up without hurting others.

Step 2: Report It to Someone You Trust in Writing

- Start with a teacher or staff member you trust. They will direct you to the right person.
- The school must begin investigating within 2 days.

When you report:

- Share what you wrote down.

- Clearly explain what your child needs.
- Offer any proof you have.
- Check in with your child during the investigation.
- If things get worse, report that immediately.

Step 3: Speak Up If Nothing Changes

If the school doesn't take action, or if the bullying continues:

- Call your district or charter office to ask about the next steps. Check out our ELL Advocacy Guide for more information on issue escalation.
- Share everything you've already reported and when.
- Ask other parents with similar concerns to speak up with you.

If the district doesn't respond:

- Contact school board members in writing. If they do not respond, consider giving public comment at a board meeting. Be sure to not mention names of specific students or staff involved, instead share an overview of the issue and the ways you have attempted to resolve it.
- If needed, file a complaint with:
 - **Your state Department of Education**
 - **U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights** [How to File](#)

What If My Child Faces Backlash?

It's hard to hear, but sometimes things get worse before they get better.

If anyone treats your child badly after you report bullying:

- Tell the school right away
- The school must act immediately to stop it

Your child has the right to feel safe at school.

Sample Letter Template

Use this letter if you need to document your concerns:

[Your Name]

[Your Phone Number]

[Your Email Address]

[Date]

To: [Principal or Staff Member Name]

[School Address]

Dear [Name],

I am writing to let you know that my child, [Your Child's Name], is being bullied at [School Name]. This situation is affecting their ability to feel safe and learn at school.

Here's what is happening:

- [List 2-3 key facts. Example: "Other students are calling my child names at lunch and pushing them in the hallway."]

This has caused:

- [List how it's affecting your child. Example: "They don't want to go to school and feel scared."]

To help my child feel safe and supported, I am asking for:

- [List your needs. Example: "More adult supervision during lunch" or "A meeting with the counselor."]

Please let me know when we can meet to talk about this. I'm ready to work together on a solution.

Thank you for your time and support.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

cc: [Other Contacts]

Attachments: [List any screenshots, notes, or reports]

Need Help? RevEd Is Here for You

You don't have to do this alone. Reach out to us if you need support, guidance, or just someone to help you think through the next step. We're parents too, and we're here to back you up.