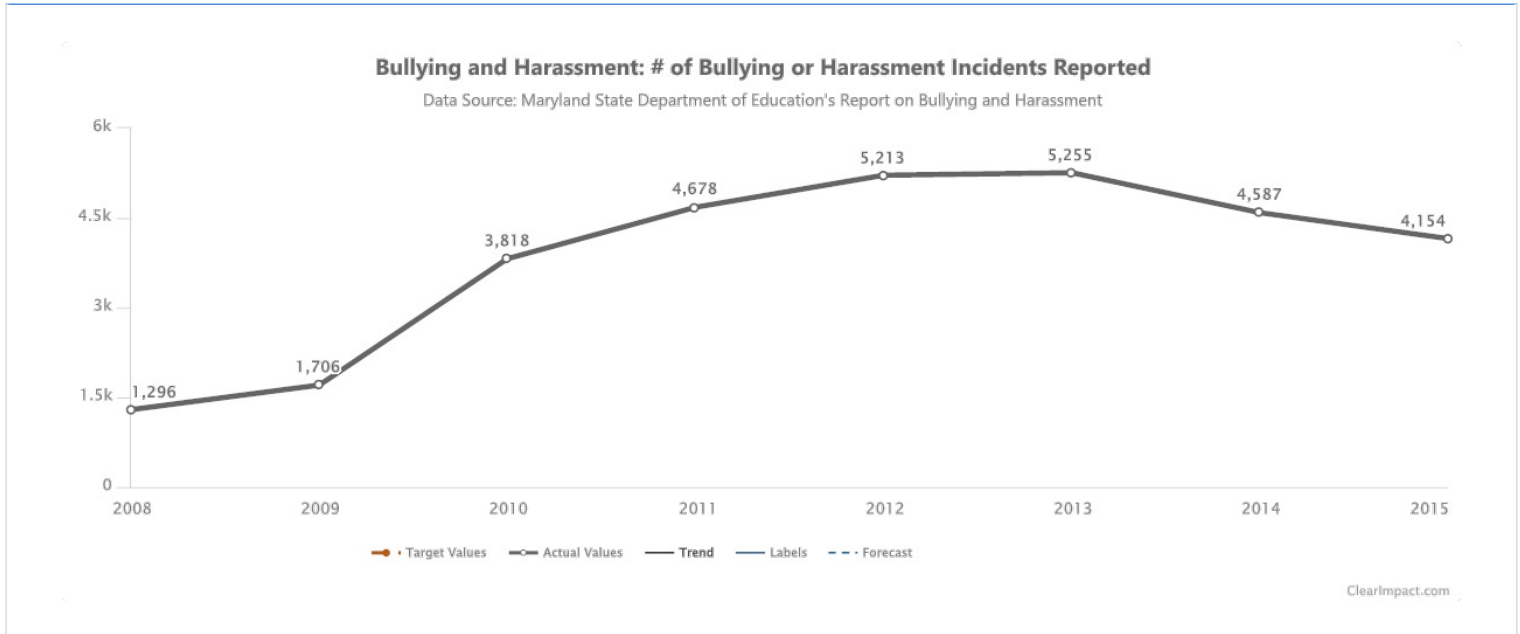


R Children are Successful in School (Statewide)

I Bullying and Harassment: # of Bullying or Harassment Incidents Reported



Story Behind the Curve

A total of 4,154 incidents of bullying, harassment, and intimidation were reported for the 2014-2015 school year. Consistent with previous reports, most incidents occurred at the middle-school level. The majority of victims, 68.3%, reported being teased, called names, or threatened while 50.4% of the reported incidents involved a *physical attack*. The most frequently reported motives behind these incidents included, *just to be mean* (33.4%), to *impress others* (16.0%), and *physical appearance* (7.2%). It was also noted that there was a large percentage of alleged motives captured under the *unknown* and *another reason* categories, 31.8% and 19.0% respectively. The Maryland State Department of Education is consistently improving methods to improve the description of data falling into these categories.

More than 80% acts of bullying occurred on school property (84.2%), and investigation of incidents primarily involved interviewing the victim, offender, witnesses, the victim's parent/guardian, teachers, and/or other school staff. Based on the data gathered from reports, 10.7% of incidents resulted in an out-of-school suspension or expulsion while 6.9% of incidents resulted in in-school suspensions. Four hundred thirty-nine (439) students, 10.5% of victims, reportedly missed school as a result of the bullying incident compared to 701 or 9.7% of alleged offenders.

The number of incidents reported in Maryland represents about 4.6 reports filed per 1,000 enrolled students; this is a decrease of 0.7 compared to the number of reported incidents in 2014 and a decrease of 2.6 compared to 2013. The extent of bullying, harassment, or intimidation in Maryland public schools is likely underreported by these figures, but as Local School Systems continue to implement bullying prevention programs, the number of reported incidents may continue to decrease in coming school years.

What Works

More information about Maryland's efforts to prevent bullying and harassment are available from [MSDE's Student Services and Strategic Planning Branch](#), and additional data and supporting information is available in the 2016 "[Bullying, Harassment, or Intimidation in Maryland Public Schools](#)" report to the Maryland General Assembly.

Local Highlight

The Text-2-Stop-It program in Queen Anne's County was implemented on October 29, 2013. Text-2-Stop-It provides students with a means to communicate issues of concern to school administrators at each high school. Students can text anonymously to a call center and engage in a two-way communication. The message is then passed on to the school administrators, who immediately take the necessary steps to address the issue as reported.

Students can report an incident or concern by using the school's unique text keyword. Once received, Text2Them, the company that owns Text-2-Stop-It provides the student with a privacy code and starts the process of acquiring additional information by text such as: what happened, location, dates, times and names of victims, perpetrators and witnesses. If the student has pictures or a video of the incident, this information can be sent from their cell phones to Text2Them. Once the information is compiled, a complete text conversation is sent to the designated school administrators for follow-up.

Brad Engel, Student Services Director in Queen Anne's County estimates that 50% of the calls received by Text-2-Stop-It have been related to bullying and cyberbullying and have resulted in a 60% reduction of bullying incidents during the past two years.

Data Discussion

Total number of bullying, intimidation, or harassment incidents reported, by academic year. In Maryland, bullying, harassment and intimidation means intentional verbal, physical, or written conduct or electronic communication that creates a hostile educational environment by substantially interfering with a student's educational benefits, opportunities, performance, or with a student's physical or psychological well-being.

