

Ways to Combat Bias in Schools

A New Resource



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WAYS TO COMBAT BIAS IN SCHOOLS: A NEW RESOURCE

A new resource from Public Agenda, made possible by support from the Nellie Mae Education Foundation

Webinar hosted by *EdWeek*

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WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS





Public Agenda works to strengthen democracy and expand opportunity in America by fostering thoughtful public opinion, meaningful public participation and responsive public institutions. Founded in 1975 by the social scientist and public opinion research pioneer Dan Yankelovich and soon-to-be secretary of state Cyrus Vance, Public Agenda is a nonpartisan, nonprofit research and public engagement organization.

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ADDRESSING INCIDENTS OF BIAS IN SCHOOLS

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NOVEMBER 2018

A Guide for Preventing and Reacting
to Discrimination Affecting Students



A RESOURCE FROM  PUBLIC AGENDA

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

1. Aggressive racist acts and discriminatory behavior in schools have increased by how much since 2016?
 - a) 10%
 - b) 45%
 - c) 75%

2. Hate crimes most often target people because of:
 - a) race/ethnicity
 - b) national origin (where your ancestors are from)
 - c) religion
 - d) sexual orientation
 - e) gender identity

GETTING STARTED:

Planning how you will use the guide

- Four 60-minute sessions
- Designed for students, teachers, staff and parents
- Groups of 7-10 people who stay together for all sessions
- The more groups, the better

THE GUIDE COULD BE USED IN A VARIETY OF SETTINGS:

- During a high school class
- After-school program
- Parent-teacher meetings
- School-wide events
- Meetings of faculty and staff

SEQUENCE OF SESSIONS

- Session 1: Comparing notes on our experiences
- Session 2: Why are these incidents happening now?
- Session 3: What should we do to prevent and address these incidents?
- Session 4: What next steps should we take?
- Key terms, definitions, and ‘person-centered language’
- Customize the discussion guide for your school:
An example from Casco Bay, Maine
- FAQs for facilitators and faculty supporters
- Optional exercise to pair with guide
- Sources

SESSION 1:

Comparing notes on our experiences

- Goals for the session
 - Begin to build relationships
 - Talk about what has been happening and why it is important.
- Part A: Setting the ground rules
- Part B: Introductions and experiences
- Part C: Getting ready for next time

SESSION 2:

Why are these incidents happening now?

- Goals for the session
 - Gain a better understanding of the possible reasons why incidents of bias, discrimination and/or hate crimes are happening.
 - Try to understand views that are different from our own.
- Part A: Potential explanations for the rise in bias and hate crimes
- Part B: Getting ready for next time

SESSION 3:

What should we do to prevent and address these incidents?

- Goals for the session
 - Discuss different ways to move forward.
 - Explore pros and cons of different approaches.
- Part A: Possible approaches for moving forward
- Part B: Getting ready for next time

SESSION 4:

What next steps should we take?

- Goals for the session
 - Brainstorm some specific ideas for making an impact.
 - Decide which ideas you want to recommend.
 - Come up with some next steps for implementing your ideas.
- Part A: Brainstorming about ways to make a difference
- Part B: Setting priorities
- Part C: Working on next steps

TIPS FOR FACILITATORS

- Be impartial
- Help the group set some guidelines or ground rules and keep to them
- Help group members identify areas of agreement and disagreement
- Use the discussion materials to bring in points of view that have not been talked about
- Create opportunities for everyone to participate
- Focus and help to clarify the discussion
- Summarize key points in the discussion
- Be self-aware
- Put the group first

Casco Bay High School



Casco Bay High School Experience

- The organizers customized the guide
- Incorporated the discussion into ongoing programs
- Discussion was open to the community
- Sophomore student facilitators
- Reworked four sessions into three sessions
- Completed the guide in one-day event
- Added supplementary sessions

SMS-supported face-to-face: Text Talk Engage

- The exercise is now open.
- Get together with 4-5 other people
- Text “ENGAGE” to 89800
- Follow the prompts
- Polling questions, discussion questions
- Results available immediately
- Allow about an hour for the discussion



Text Talk Act

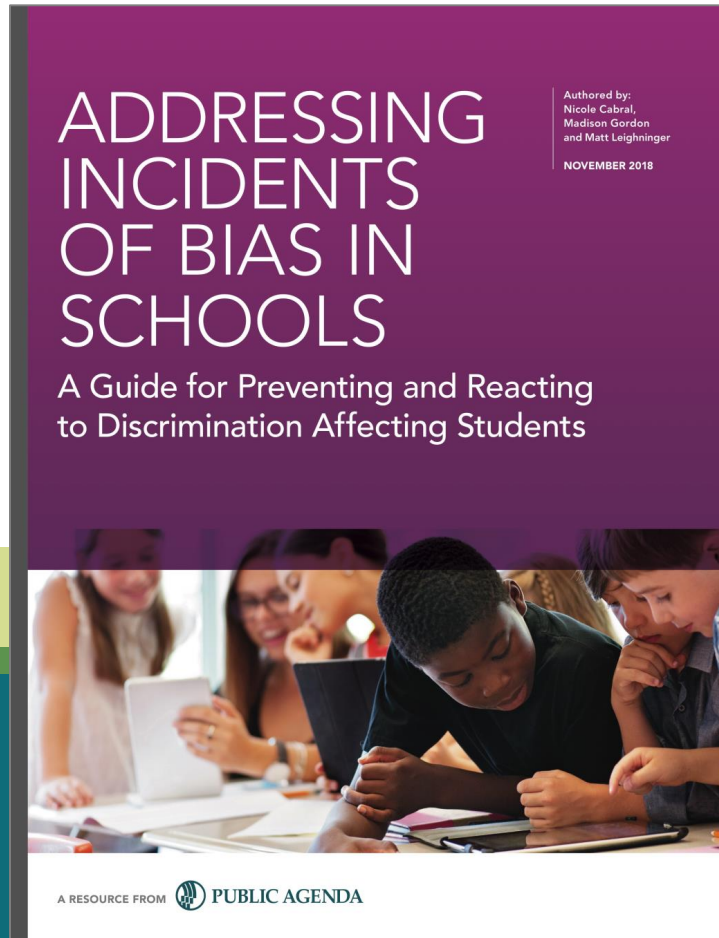


#TextTalkAct Selfies

Q&A



Visit <http://ow.ly/Nylk30mMNAc>



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