



Editorial: Increased Bullying Means More Programs Needed

by Nicole Adrian

News articles and stories about bullying seem to be prevalent these days. The numbers are staggering: According to the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program at Clemson University in Clemson, SC, 17% of American students report being bullied two to three times a month or more within a school semester.¹

During the last few years, I'm not exactly sure what has changed about the subject and caused the numbers to increase, but the continued popularity of and easy access to new technology—such as cell phones and the internet—undoubtedly must have something to do with it. As a result, students can be in touch with each other more easily—in good ways and bad.

With increased opportunities for bullying comes an increased need for ways to combat it. Numerous programs and groups, including nonprofits, government agencies and programs within schools, exist to help with the problem.

Another type of program is making its way into schools. In this issue of *ASQ Primary and Secondary Education Brief*, Wendy Ryan writes about the Tribes program, which uses a whole-school, learning community model that aims to create a positive school climate through improved teaching and classroom management, positive interpersonal relations and opportunities for student participation.

Ryan spent some time in a Tribes elementary school classroom to see the program in action. There, she observed incentive systems for good behavior in school assemblies, as well as a token incentive system to promote pro-social behavior, which includes compliance with Tribes agreements.

Additionally, Joe and Judith Ann Pauley—who recently presented on bullying at ASQ's National Quality Education Conference—wrote an article for this issue about how relationships between educators and students need to be in place to help reduce instances of bullying. Being able to recognize and meet the needs of different student personality types is essential to helping deter bullying, the Pauleys write. Additionally, there are several solutions to bullying that



are quite effective, including focusing on the social environment of the school, training the staff and enforcing schoolwide policies.

When schoolwide programs are in place to help teachers establish relationships with students and create positive classroom climates, it only makes sense that student behaviors would be improved, thus decreasing bullying tendencies.

Reference

1. Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, Clemson University, www.clemson.edu/olweus/index.html.