

Patuxent High School Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps

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Senior Naval Science Instructor

Bystander Intervention Policy

Bystander intervention is the act of feeling empowered and equipped with the knowledge and skills to effectively assist in the prevention of inappropriate behavior or assault. Bystander intervention and bystander education programs teach potential witnesses safe and positive ways to prevent or intervene when there is a risk for violence, harassment or bullying. This approach gives students specific roles that they can use in preventing victimization, including recognizing, naming, and stopping situations that could lead to an incident before it happens, stepping in during an incident, and/or speaking out against ideas and behaviors that support victimization. It also gives students the skills to be an effective and supportive ally to victims in the aftermath of the incident.

The following are essential components of our unit's bystander intervention program:

- (1) Creating and nurturing a climate of caring for all students and staff.
- (2) Teaching students to recognize instances of bullying and distinguish between tattling and reporting.
- (3) Teaching students to develop empathy for victims and dealing with guilt for not intervening (not blaming the victim).
- (4) Teaching students how to report bullying to adults and to develop effective means of intervention.
- (5) Setting up a peer warning system.
- (6) Empowering bystanders to intervene.
- (7) Teaching conflict resolution skills.

Bystander Intervention training is being incorporated into the leadership training that is given each year within our NJROTC classrooms. The ultimate goal of the NJROTC Bystander Intervention Program is that it be led by the senior cadet staff.

REPORTING

Cadets needing peer assistance should contact their squad leader and continue up the chain of cadet command as needed until they receive assistance.

Any cadet, student, staff member, teacher, parent or other interested party needing assistance should contact the Senior Naval Science Instructor.

RESOURCES

If you would like more information regarding the specific aspects of Bystander Intervention Training, please see the NJROTC Unit website or contact the Naval Science Instructors. Additional resources on bystander intervention are available at the following:

- <https://rainn.org/articles/practicing-active-bystander-intervention>
- <https://www.apa.org/pi/health-equity/bystander-intervention>