Mean Behavior: Students Who Experience It

When someone experiences mean behavior, these types of effects can last long into the person’s future:

- Sadness
- Low self-esteem
- Health problems
- Poor grades
- Self-defeating thoughts and actions
Students Who Are Mean to Others

- Students who are intentionally mean to others should be held accountable for their actions.
- Those who are mean to their peers are more likely to:
  - Get into frequent fights
  - Steal and vandalize property
  - Drink alcohol, use other drugs and smoke
  - Have poor grades
  - Have a negative attitude about school
Not all students who are mean to others have obvious behavior problems or break the rules in front of their peers, parents and teachers. Some are well-liked, even popular, among peers, parents and teachers. For this reason, it’s often difficult for adults to discover or even imagine that these students engage in mean behavior.
Students Who Observe Mean Behavior

- Students who witness mean behavior may feel that they are in an unsafe environment.
- Effects may include feeling:
  - Fearful
  - Powerless to act
  - Guilty for not acting
  - Tempted to participate
Circle of Mean Behavior

Student Who Experiences Mean Behavior
Circle of Mean Behavior Defined

A. Students who start the mean behavior
B. Students who follow—positive toward person A., don’t play a lead role, but take an active part
C. Supporters—actively and openly support person A. through laughter and/or spreading it around
D. Passive Supports—like the mean behavior but don’t show outward signs of support
E. Disengaged Onlookers—don’t get involved, don’t take a stand, “none of my business”
F. Possible Defenders—dislike the mean behavior and think they should help, but do nothing
G. Defenders—dislike person A.’s behavior, help or try to help the student.
H. Student who experiences the mean behavior
Reporting and Sharing

- Tell an adult that you trust
  - Parent
  - Teacher
  - Counselor
  - Principal, Assistant Principal
- Use the bully box
- E-mail someone at school
- Use the bully hotline: 956-2364