

Students feel unsafe

In Vermont schools, the threat of weapons and physical and verbal harassment is real. Confidentially, Vermont students report safety concerns that echo statistics in schools across the country.³⁷



the FACTS

- Eighteen percent of Vermont students in grades eight to 12 reported that they bullied someone within the past 30 days. Twenty-one percent reported that they were bullied during the same time period.
- The problem intensifies within the eighth grade. In this subset, 31% reported that they had bullied someone and 26% reported being bullied.
- Nearly 10% of Vermont students reported carrying a weapon onto school property one or more times in the past 30 days—well above the national rate of 6.5%.
- One in four Vermont students was offered, sold or given illegal drugs on school property within the past 12 months. In the same time period, nearly one in four was involved in a physical fight.³⁸

PROMISING APPROACH

Laying the foundation for success

The Permanent Fund for the Well-Being of Vermont Children, a supporting foundation of the Vermont Community Foundation, funds community-based prevention strategies that improve life for the state's children and families.

Describing their approach as proactive and “respectfully engaged,” the Permanent Fund matches promising strategies for change with strong leaders. Investing time upfront, the Permanent Fund works to understand the issues, the community and the players holistically, and then supports a lead nonprofit in developing specific outcomes and indicators for a project. This investment of time may even result in the development of a funding collaborative to build sustainability for the initiative as well as awareness of the issue within the funding community. Over the life of a project, the Permanent Fund remains engaged and is increasingly called upon by grantees for technical support and nonprofit management advice.