

## November: Theme is “Law and Policy”

**Education:** How do your state law and school policies address bullying?.....

### **STATE AND FEDERAL LAW**

Each state addresses bullying in schools differently, through laws or model policies for schools to adopt. Find information about your state using this interactive map: <http://www.stopbullying.gov/laws/index.html>. The map will direct you to relevant information for your state.

#### **Discussion questions:**

- Does your state have a bullying prevention law? Does your state have a bullying prevention policy?
- How is bullying defined within the law and/or policy?
- Does the law in your state include a reference to students with disabilities? If yes, what does it include?

#### **Additional discussion questions:**

- Is there a federal law that applies to bullying?
- How is a law different from a policy? (hint: visit <http://www.stopbullying.gov/laws/index.html>)
- Is there a federal law that applies to students with disabilities? (hint: search using “harassment”)

### **SCHOOL POLICY**

- Does your school have a bullying prevention policy?
- How are students informed of the policy?
- How is bullying defined in the policy?
- Is the definition in the school policy different from the definition in the state law?
- Does the school policy include a reference to students with disabilities? If yes, what does it include?

#### **Interaction: Elementary School students**

**Read *The Weird Series (Weird! Dare! and Tough!)* to students.**

*The Weird Series*, by Erin Frankel and illustrated by Paula Heaphy, are three books that tell the story of an ongoing case of bullying from the perspectives of three third graders. Luisa describes being targeted by bullying in *Weird!* Jayla shares her experience as a bystander to bullying in *Dare!* And in *Tough!*, Sam speaks from the point of view of someone initiating bullying.

Kids will easily relate to Luisa, Jayla, and Sam, as each girl has her own unique experience, eventually learning how to face her challenges with the help of friends, peers, and caring adults.

The books may be read separately or as a set; readers will enjoy tracking small details that carry over from one book to another. These books on bullying each conclude with “activity club” pages for kids, as well as information to help parents, teachers, counselors, and other adults reinforce the books’ messages and foster dialogue with children.

Order the books from: [Free Spirit Publishing](#)

Download the discussion guide at no cost: [“A Leader’s Guide to the Weird Series”](#)

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### **Interaction: Middle and high school students**

View the video “*Meet Austin and Elena*”

Meet Austin and Elena, who are two in a million, both diagnosed with Goldenhar Syndrome. They appear in TLC’s new series, *Two In A Million*, which premiered in early April. They also shared their personal story by sharing a video with PACER’s National Bullying Prevention Center.

Learn more about [Goldenhar Syndrome](#).

[View their video on Facebook](#)

#### **Discussion questions:**

1. What is one thing new that you learned from this video?
2. Did hearing about Austin and Elena’s experiences change any perceptions you have about disability?
3. What are some of the pros of being two in a million?
4. Do our “differences” ever become our “strengths”? How?