

Student Action Plan Scenarios

For Middle and High School Students

- 1) You recently noticed that Sam, a student younger than you who often sits alone, has been getting picked on during lunch. The bullying began a few weeks ago with other students making fun of him just loud enough for him to hear, but not for adults in the lunchroom to hear. Then, you saw a group of students spill his drink while he was eating. Sam told them to stop, but they just laughed. Behavior toward him has gotten progressively worse. Just yesterday, you saw that same group of students calling him names to his face and then turning to their friends encouraging them to do it, too. When Sam told them to leave him alone, they made threats that things were going to get even worse for him. It makes you feel really bad to see Sam being mistreated, and you're worried that he might be in physical danger.

Create a student action plan to advocate for Sam

- 2) After class, you and your friends are walking down the hallway, talking about the concert you're going to this weekend. Preoccupied with your conversation, you accidentally bump into Alex, another student in your class. You say sorry to Alex and keep walking with your friends. When you get home from school later that day, you go online and see that Alex is talking badly about you. Alex posted, "Someone can't even walk a straight line. The hallways are dangerous when she's in them. Such as serious failure. Get a clue." You don't know Alex very well and are not sure if he is joking, so you don't do anything about it. The next day at school you see Alex and think Alex might approach you, but nothing happens so you assume everything blew over. However, later that night you see that Alex posted more negative comments about you, each one getting more aggressive. You decide to send Alex a private message saying that it was an accident and to please stop posting hurtful comments about you online. But Alex responds with "What!? I'm just joking around. Why are you taking this all so serious?!" which leaves you confused and uncertain about whether or not this is bullying. It makes you really nervous to think about going to school the next day.

Create a student action plan to become a self-advocate

- 3) There's a new girl at school named Elizabeth who has Down syndrome and is in several of your classes. Everyone was friendly and nice to her on her first day, but after a few days you start noticing students being mean to her. Sometimes it's hard to understand Elizabeth when she speaks. Some students in class think it's funny. Most days before class starts, they sit in the back of the room and imitate everything Elizabeth says, making sure other students and Elizabeth hears. Many of the students laugh along. You told them to leave Elizabeth alone, but they are only getting meaner. Today you saw them walk up to Elizabeth when they thought no one was watching and mocked her speech right in front of her. By the time you got there, they were walking away laughing. You feel so frustrated watching this, but you haven't figured out a way to help her.

Create a student action plan to advocate for Elizabeth