



# The "Double I/R" Criteria for Bullying

Bullying behavior is **Intentional**, **Imbalanced**, and **Repeated**

**Intentional** - bullying incidents are not accidental; the bully intends to inflict harm upon the victim; bullying differs from everyday "rough-and-tumble play" in that the behavior continues or even escalates when asked to stop

**Imbalanced** - bullying occurs in an interpersonal relationship characterized by an imbalance of power, either physical or psychological; bullies are adept at identifying other students who lack the skills, abilities, or personal characteristics to defend themselves; bullies are masters of the abuse of power and use of coercion

**Repeated** - acts must occur more than once; teachers/adults must step in to provide support and protection when incidents are repeated and beyond the control of the victim; while "single-event" acts of aggression are problematic and require adult attention; most students experience the occasional unpleasant or even aggressive acts but are able to handle the "single-event" incident