

In April 2024, the Sikh Coalition published *Where Are You Really From (WAYRF): A National Sikh School Climate Report*. Based on surveys collected from ~2,000 Sikh students in 30 states across the country, WAYRF offers new insight into bullying and school climate. **Key findings include:**

- **Sikh students continue to be bullied at alarmingly high rates, yet don't often describe what they experience as bullying.** 78% of students reported experiencing behavior that qualifies as bullying, but only 49% said they were bullied.
- **Sikh male students with religious head coverings are highly likely to be bullied.** 77% of Sikh male students with *dastaars* (turbans) or *patkas* reported being bullied at least once. The data also shows that male Sikh students generally are facing higher rates of discrimination and more violent forms of bullying in schools.
- **Sikh students are bullied by school staff.** 11% of Sikh students reported being bullied by or facing discrimination from the very adults charged with educating and protecting them.
- **Sikh students somewhat understand how to report bullying, but often face inaction when they do.** 74% of Sikh students said they know how to report bullying at their school, but 46% report "never" or "almost never" doing so—perhaps because 63% said that teachers or staff "almost never" or "never" intervened when bullying happened in front of them.
- **Sikh students are less safe in less inclusive schools.** When asked about inclusion of *Sikhi* (Sikhism) in educational materials and school policies, more than 50% of Sikh students reported that their school is "not at all" inclusive of their religion. Data also indicate that less inclusivity significantly predicts more bullying incidents.
- **Sikh students who are bullied face poorer mental health outcomes.** Data shows that bullying incidents (actual and perceived) are significantly related to higher scores on tests that measure a depressed mood.
- **Sikh students face high rates of microaggressions, but may not recognize them as bullying.** 82% of Sikh students reported experiencing at least one microaggression, but the majority who did so did not self-report being bullied; conversely, 73% of students who said they were never bullied reported at least one microaggression. Even if Sikh students don't consider microaggressions to be bullying, however, those who faced higher levels of microaggressions also reported worse mental health outcomes.

WAYRF includes recommendations for the federal and state elected officials, state and local education agencies, and teachers and educators. They fall into four broad categories:

- Prioritize initiatives, legislation, and policies that better support protection from bias-based bullying for Sikh students;
- Provide more resources and support to educators in facilitating student safety and well-being;
- Prioritize accurate, timely, and mandatory data collection; and
- Allocate resources to better support mental health needs of Sikh students.

For more content, including a step-by-step guide for parents who are concerned their Sikh child faces bullying, a glossary of relevant terms for non-Sikh audiences, and more, visit thesikh.co/WAYRF.