

## **Bullying and the *differon*: Embracing difference as a way to reduce student violence**

In most instances, it is the student who is “different” (the *differon*)--too short or tall, too thin or big, too smart or not, too shy, too...who gets bullied.

“Without normalcy, there would be no bullying.” ~ John Harris Loflin

By accepting difference as a way to reduce violence, we also validate the *differon*, self-actualization, social-actualization, and the meeting of our human need for recognition.

### [Bullying and the differon: Accepting differences as a way to reduce school violence](#)

Part 1 The “differon” as the target of bullying

Part 2 Understanding bullying: The differon, sustainability, and one-size-fits-all as the source of problems in society

Part 3 What’s normalcy?

Part 4 What is Self-Actualization? Discovering and realizing our uniqueness so as to neutralize the power of normalcy

Part 5 Self-actualization and violence

Part 6 Social actualization: Stressing uniqueness to neutralize the power of normalcy

Part 7 Normalcy is reinforced through schooling: Common standards as curriculum

Part 8 Self-actualization: Normalizing difference for sustainability

### **Proposed Action Item**

AACI will implement a plan to view bullying as an inherent outcome of a school system which does not appreciate that difference is the natural quality of each child who enters a classroom.

AACI will work closely with Merry Juerling (mjwith3@yahoo.com), co-creator of the [Strength-Based Learning Plan](#) (S-BLP), to study the intersectionality of student differences/student uniquenesses and school and classroom bullying.

AACI will support and enable the creation of a team of educators to set up 4-year longitudinal study of the effects of the use of the S-BLP on classroom and school bullying.

AACI will create Professional Development sessions for teachers to help them deconstruct the intersectionality of normalcy and dis/ability and move to change the classroom climate and school policies around to “normalizing” difference.

### **Resources**

- [Constructing Normalcy: The Bell Curve, the Novel and the Invention of the Disabled Body in the 19th Century](#)
- [The Hunt for Disability: The New Eugenics and the Normalization of School Children](#)
- [Critical Race Studies in Education Association 2017 Conference proposal: In 1907 Indiana legalized normalcy. In 2017 Indiana dismantled normalcy](#)