
SENATE BILL 6112

State of Washington

63rd Legislature

2014 Regular Session

By Senators McAuliffe, Rolfes, Litzow, Cleveland, Mullet, Dammeier, Hasegawa, Kohl-Welles, Ranker, Conway, and Frockt

Read first time 01/15/14. Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to requiring classroom instruction regarding
2 harassment, intimidation, and bullying prevention policies and
3 procedures; and amending RCW 28A.300.285.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.300.285 and 2013 c 23 s 50 are each amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (1) (~~By August 1, 2011,~~) Each school district (~~(shall adopt or~~
8 ~~amend if necessary)~~) must have a policy and procedure that at a minimum
9 incorporates the revised model policy and procedure provided under
10 subsection (4) of this section that prohibits the harassment,
11 intimidation, or bullying of any student. It is the responsibility of
12 each school district to share this policy with parents or guardians,
13 students, volunteers, and school employees in accordance with rules
14 adopted by the superintendent of public instruction. Each school
15 district shall designate one person in the district as the primary
16 contact regarding the antiharassment, intimidation, or bullying policy.
17 The primary contact shall receive copies of all formal and informal
18 complaints, have responsibility for assuring the implementation of the

1 policy and procedure, and serve as the primary contact on the policy
2 and procedures between the school district, the office of the education
3 ombuds, and the office of the superintendent of public instruction.

4 (2) "Harassment, intimidation, or bullying" means any intentional
5 electronic, written, verbal, or physical act, including but not limited
6 to one shown to be motivated by any characteristic in RCW 9A.36.080(3),
7 or other distinguishing characteristics, when the intentional
8 electronic, written, verbal, or physical act:

9 (a) Physically harms a student or damages the student's property;
10 or

11 (b) Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's
12 education; or

13 (c) Is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an
14 intimidating or threatening educational environment; or

15 (d) Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly
16 operation of the school.

17 Nothing in this section requires the affected student to actually
18 possess a characteristic that is a basis for the harassment,
19 intimidation, or bullying.

20 (3) The policy and procedure should be adopted or amended through
21 a process that includes representation of parents or guardians, school
22 employees, volunteers, students, administrators, and community
23 representatives. It is recommended that each such policy emphasize
24 positive character traits and values, including the importance of civil
25 and respectful speech and conduct, and the responsibility of students
26 to comply with the district's policy prohibiting harassment,
27 intimidation, or bullying.

28 (4)(a) (~~(By August 1, 2010, the superintendent of public~~
29 ~~instruction, in consultation with representatives of parents, school~~
30 ~~personnel, the office of the education ombuds, the Washington state~~
31 ~~school directors' association, and other interested parties, shall~~
32 ~~provide to the education committees of the legislature a revised and~~
33 ~~updated model harassment, intimidation, and bullying prevention policy~~
34 ~~and procedure.)) The superintendent of public instruction shall
35 publish on its web site, with a link to the safety center web page,
36 ((~~the revised and updated~~)) a model harassment, intimidation, and
37 bullying prevention policy and procedure, along with training and
38 instructional materials on the components that shall be included in any~~

1 district policy and procedure. The superintendent shall adopt rules
2 regarding school districts' communication of the policy and procedure
3 to parents, students, employees, and volunteers.

4 (b) The office of the superintendent of public instruction has the
5 authority to update with new technologies access to this information in
6 the safety center, to the extent resources are made available.

7 (c) Each school district shall by August 15, 2011, provide to the
8 superintendent of public instruction a brief summary of its policies,
9 procedures, programs, partnerships, vendors, and instructional and
10 training materials to be posted on the school safety center web site,
11 and shall also provide the superintendent with a link to the school
12 district's web site for further information. The district's primary
13 contact for bullying and harassment issues shall annually by August
14 15th verify posted information and links and notify the school safety
15 center of any updates or changes.

16 (5) The Washington state school directors' association(~~(, with the~~
17 ~~assistance of the office of the superintendent of public instruction,~~
18 ~~shall convene an advisory committee to develop a~~)) shall update its
19 model policy prohibiting acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying
20 that are conducted via electronic means, also known as cyberbullying,
21 by a student while on school grounds and during the school day. The
22 school directors' association shall also identify strategies for
23 students to prevent cyberbullying. The policy shall include a
24 requirement that materials meant to educate parents and students about
25 the seriousness of cyberbullying be disseminated to parents or made
26 available on the school district's web site. Both the most up-to-date
27 model policy and cyberbullying prevention strategies must be made
28 available in all school districts' student handbooks. The school
29 directors' association (~~(and the advisory committee shall develop)~~)
30 shall update sample materials for school districts to disseminate,
31 which shall also include information on responsible and safe internet
32 use as well as what options are available if a student is being bullied
33 via electronic means including, but not limited to, reporting threats
34 to local police and when to involve school officials, the internet
35 service provider, or phone service provider. The school directors'
36 association shall submit the model policy and sample materials, along
37 with a recommendation for local adoption, to the governor and the
38 legislature and shall post the model policy and sample materials on its

1 web site by January 1, ((2008)) 2015. Each school district board of
2 directors shall ((~~establish~~)) update its own policy by August 1,
3 ((2008)) 2015.

4 (6) As used in this section, "electronic" or "electronic means"
5 means any communication where there is the transmission of information
6 by wire, radio, optical cable, electromagnetic, or other similar means.

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