

Colorado Legislation on Bullying

House Bill 11-1254, *Measures to Reduce the Frequency of Bullying in Schools*

Creates a legislative committee to study the issues related to bullying in public schools and submit a report of findings and recommendations to the education committees of the Colorado Senate and House of Representatives.

Establishes the bullying prevention and education grant program within the Colorado Department of Education.

Establishes the following requirements:

- Schools will maintain a record of each confirmed incident of bullying that occurs at school.
- Local boards of education will establish dress code policies that encourage school pride and unity and promote uniformity of dress.
- Each principal of a public school, including district charters or institute charters, will report annually on incidents of bullying.
- Members of boards of education, teachers, and administrators are prohibited from taking any retaliatory action against a student who reports in good faith an incident of bullying.
- Each teacher will receive professional development training concerning how to prevent and address bullying at least every two years.
- Except as prohibited by state or federal law, school districts, public schools, district charter schools, institute charter schools, BOCES and threat assessment teams of the aforementioned may share information with one another for the purpose of assessing the risk of bullying a particular student may pose.
- Each school will annually survey each student enrolled in the school concerning the student's impressions of the severity of bullying in the school. Each principal will report annually a summary of information concerning the surveys.

Colorado Dept. of Education summary of Senate Bill 01-080, *Safe Schools - Bullying Policy*

Requires each school district to seek broad input when adopting and implementing a safe school plan or making revisions to plans or policies concerning safety. It recommends consulting with the school district accountability committee and school advisory councils (or school accountability committee), parents, teachers, administrators, students, student councils where available, and the surrounding community if appropriate.

Requires each school district to include a specific policy in the school district conduct and discipline code concerning bullying prevention and education.

Defines bullying to mean any written or verbal expression, or physical act or gesture, or a pattern thereof, that is intended to cause distress upon one or more students in the school, on school grounds, in school vehicles, at a designated school bus stop, or at school activities or sanctioned events.

Requires each school to submit, in the annual report to the state board of education, information concerning the school's learning environment during that school year. The annual report will also describe all policy on bullying prevention and education, including information related to the development and implementation of any bullying prevention programs.