

School Bullying Prevention Act

The School Bullying Prevention Act was signed by Governor Keating on April 23, 2002, and requires the school board of each district to adopt a policy for the control and discipline of all children attending public school in that district by specifically prohibiting harassment, intimidation, and bullying by students at school and to address prevention of and education about such behavior. In developing this policy, the local Boards of Education shall make an effort to involve the teachers, parents, and students affected. Students, parents, and teachers shall be notified by the district's Board of Education of its adoption of the policy and receive a copy upon request.

“Harassment, bullying, and intimidation means any gesture, written or verbal expression, or physical act that a reasonable person should know will harm another student, damage another student's property, or insult or demean any student or group of students in such a way as to disrupt or interfere with the school's educational mission or the education of any student.”

The law further states that safe school committees shall study and make recommendations regarding: Student harassment, intimidation, and bullying at school, professional development needs of faculty and staff to implement methods to decrease this behavior, methods to encourage involvement of community and students, and the development of individual relationships between students and staff and the use of problem-solving teams. The Safe School Committee shall review traditional prevention programs utilized by other states, state agencies, or school districts.

The State Department of Education shall compile and distribute a list of research-based programs appropriate for the prevention of harassment, intimidation, and bullying of students. If a school district implements a commercial bullying prevention program, it shall use a program listed by the State Department of Education. This act became effective November 1, 2002.

House Bill 2270, signed by Governor Henry on May 10, 2004, states: “Any person who shall devise any plan, scheme or program of action to cause serious bodily or death of another person with intent to perform such malicious act of violence, whether alone or by conspiring with others, shall be guilty of a felony, punishable upon conviction thereof by imprisonment for a period of not more than ten years.” This bill amends 21 O.S., Section 1378.