

PIKES PEAK SAFE @ SCHOOL COALITION

Convened by Inside Out Youth Services -- www.insideoutys.org
EVERY STUDENT SHOULD BE SAFE & RESPECTED AT SCHOOL



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Colorado's HB1254 Best Practices Information & Support for Your School Available Now

COLORADO LAW NOW DEFINES BULLYING AS:

“Any written or verbal expression, or physical or electronic act or gesture, or a pattern thereof, that is intended to coerce, intimidate, or cause any physical, mental, or emotional harm to any student. Bullying is prohibited against any student for any reason, including but not limited to any such behavior that is directed toward a student on the basis of his or her academic performance; or against whom federal and state laws prohibit discrimination upon any of the bases described in section 22-32-109*” C.R.S. 22-32-109.1(a)(X)(B) *22-32-109 (1) (11) (l)
The schools in the district are subject to all federal and state laws and constitutional provisions prohibiting discrimination on the basis of disability, race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, ancestry, or need for special education services.



Harassment, exclusion and violence no longer have to be inevitable rights of passage for students at your school.

The Pikes Peak Safe @ School Coalition connects community members and school districts in dialogue about school safety, assists schools in creating and implementing policy regarding HB1254, and provides training recommendations to support educators so local schools provide the best chance for every student to learn and grow.

No state law or school policy could ever list every type of harassment, but listing the characteristics (enumeration) of students most often targeted by bullying has been proven more

effective in keeping ALL students safer. In Colorado, your school's teachers and other staff now have the tool of policy and the rule of law making it easier to intervene to prevent bullying.

We can help you translate the new law into safe, inclusive strategies for addressing bullying at your school.

As part of the Pikes Peak Safe @ School Coalition, Inside Out Youth Services can support your faculty through discussions that address bullying prevention and intervention. In particular, we provide resources and information regarding the discrimination and bullying faced by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students, 9 out of 10 of whom experience violence in school.

For students, your steps to align with HB1254 will send the message that YOUR school is at the forefront of creating respect, civility and fairness.

Please call us to meet with you or your senior faculty team. Phone 719-328-1056 or email Shawna@insideoutys.org to schedule a training.

Pikes Peak Safe @ School Coalition Members include teachers, community leaders, parents and students from across the Pikes Peak Region. Meetings convene quarterly at Inside Out Youth Services 235 S Nevada Avenue, Colorado Springs, CO 80903. For questions, contact Inside Out executive director Shawna Kempainen at Shawna@insideoutys.org or 719-328-1056.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON HB1254

How much of a problem is bullying in Colorado?

Too many students in Colorado are experiencing bullying, and some students are more likely to be bullied based on their race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, or disability.

- 18.8% of high school students in Colorado reported being bullied on school grounds (Colorado Healthy Kids Survey, 2009) but 87% of gay and lesbian students reported being verbally bullied based on their sexual orientation (GLSEN Colorado Survey, 2009).
- According to a report from the White House Bullying Prevention Summit other frequent reasons students reported being bullied included: gender, race/ethnicity, religion, and disability.
- 25% of youth who were bullied reported attempting suicide in the previous year compared to 11% of students who were not bullied (Colorado Healthy Kids Survey, 2009).
- A Colorado study found that schools with lower levels of bullying had higher CSAP scores (Evaluation of the Colorado Trust's Bullying Prevention Initiative, 2008).

Bullying affects all students so why focus on race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, and disability in policies?

- Students who are perceived to be different in terms of race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, or disability are more likely to be bullied based on these characteristics (Swearer, 2011; Graham, 2006; Eslea & Mukhtar, 2000).
- Students report less bullying and feeling safer in schools with enumerated policies (policies that specifically list and prohibit bullying based on characteristics such as race, sex, sexual orientation, religion, or disability)
- Students report that teachers in schools with enumerated policies are more likely to intervene when they witness this type of bullying (GLSEN Survey, 2009).

What changes does HB-1254 make to Colorado's bullying laws?

- HB-1254 defines bullying for the first time in state law in Colorado (see reverse page for language and citation.)
- HB-1254 encourages districts to consider the following
 - The biennial administration of surveys of students' impressions of severity of bullying in their schools.
 - Designation of a team who advise the school administration concerning the severity and frequency of bullying incidents at the school.
 - Appropriate disciplinary consequences for students who bully AND for those who take retaliatory action against someone who reports in good faith.
- HB-1254 directs the Colorado Department of Education to establish a bullying prevention website and creates a Bullying Prevention Education and Grant Program to be funded out of grants and gifts.

What best practices should districts consider in updating their bullying policies?

The US Department of Education issued a Dear Colleague letter in December 2010 outlining the various components of bullying prevention laws or policies that states and LEA's should consider. In part, that letter cited:

- Purpose statement: outlines the range of detrimental effects that bullying has on students and declares any form of bullying unacceptable.
- Statement of scope: Covers conduct that occurs on school campuses, at school sponsored activities, on school transportation or any conduct that otherwise creates a substantial disruption to the school environment.
- Specification of prohibited conduct: provides a specific definition of bullying that is consistent with state law and includes verbal, physical, and cyber-bullying.
- Enumeration: prohibits bullying acts based on actual or perceived characteristics of students who have historically been targets of bullying and lists those characteristics.
- Collaborative development of policies: encourages a collaborative process with school administrators, staff, families and students.
- Training and preventative education: includes a provision for training for all staff.
- Transparency and monitoring: includes provisions for annual reporting to state.