THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 156

Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY TRUITT, MAJOR, HENNESSEY, SAYLOR, FRANKEL, D. COSTA, MATZIE, DONATUCCI, MACKENZIE, KINSEY, KORTZ, WHEATLEY, SCHREIBER, BROWNLEE, BISHOP, C. PARKER, GODSHALL, A. HARRIS, V. BROWN, SCHLOSSBERG, M. K. KELLER, BARRAR, READSHAW, COHEN, BENNINGHOFF, SANTARSIERO, DAVIS, WATSON, GOODMAN, ROSS, BOBACK, ELLIS, HACKETT, KIM, QUINN, STURLA AND ROEBUCK, FEBRUARY 3, 2015

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, FEBRUARY 3, 2015

AN ACT

Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An act relating to the public school system, including certain provisions applicable as well to private and parochial 3 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the laws relating thereto," in certification of teachers, further providing for program of continuing professional education; and, in safe schools, further providing for definitions, for 7 reporting and for policy relating to bullying and providing 8 for powers and duties of Department of Education. 9 10 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania 11 hereby enacts as follows: 12 Section 1. Section 1205.2 of the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known as the Public School Code of 1949, is 13 14 amended by adding a subsection to read: 15 Section 1205.2. Program of Continuing Professional 16 Education. -- * * * 17 (a.1) In addition to the continuing education program required under subsection (a), each professional educator shall 18

complete at least four (4) hours of training focused solely on

19

- 1 the identification and prevention of, intervention in, and the
- 2 <u>use of the online portal to report harassment, bullying and</u>
- 3 cyberbullying as such terms are defined in section 1301-A or to
- 4 complete the online training and examination programs
- 5 established in section 1303.2-A(3) and (4).
- 6 * * *
- 7 Section 2. The definition of "school property" in section
- 8 1301-A of the act, amended November 17, 2010 (P.L.996, No.104),
- 9 is amended and the section is amended by adding definitions to
- 10 read:
- 11 Section 1301-A. Definitions.--As used in this article,
- 12 "Bullying" shall mean any written, verbal or physical act or
- 13 conduct which may, but shall not be required to, be based on any
- 14 actual or perceived characteristic, including, but not limited
- 15 to a characteristic related to race; color; religion; national
- 16 <u>origin; ancestry; ethnicity; sexual orientation; physical</u>
- 17 disability; mental or emotional health; learning disability;
- 18 gender; gender identity or expression; socio-economic status or
- 19 physical appearance or based on an association with a person who
- 20 has or is perceived to have one or more such characteristics
- 21 and:
- 22 (1) is directed at a specific student or students;
- 23 (2) occurs in a school setting;
- 24 (3) is severe, persistent or pervasive; and
- 25 (4) has or can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of
- 26 one or more of the following:
- 27 <u>(i) places a reasonable student in fear of physical harm to</u>
- 28 the student's person or property;
- 29 <u>(ii) causes a substantially detrimental effect on a</u>
- 30 reasonable student's physical or mental health; or

- 1 (iii) substantially interferes with a reasonable student's
- 2 <u>ability to participate in or benefit from the services</u>,
- 3 activities or privileges provided by a school.
- 4 * * *
- 5 "Cyberbullying" shall mean bullying that occurs through
- 6 electronic communication.
- 7 <u>"Electronic communication" shall mean any form of</u>
- 8 communication through an electronic device, including, but not
- 9 <u>limited to, a telephone, cellular phone, computer or pager,</u>
- 10 which form of communication includes, but is not limited to, e-
- 11 mail, instant messaging, text messaging, blogging, paging,
- 12 online gaming and communication through an Internet website.
- 13 "Harassment" shall have the same meaning as defined in 18
- 14 Pa.C.S. § 2709 (relating to harassment).
- 15 * * *
- "School property" or "school setting" shall mean any public
- 17 school grounds, any school-sponsored activity [or] any
- 18 conveyance providing transportation to a school entity or
- 19 school-sponsored activity or event, or a designated school bus
- 20 stop when students are waiting to be picked up by school-
- 21 provided transportation or exiting from school-provided
- 22 transportation.
- 23 * * *
- 24 Section 3. Section 1303-A(b), (b.1), (c) and (e)(2) of the
- 25 act, amended November 17, 2010 (P.L.996, No.104) and June 30,
- 26 2011 (P.L.112, No.24), are amended to read:
- 27 Section 1303-A. Reporting.--* * *
- 28 (b) [Each chief school administrator shall report to the
- 29 office by July 31 of each year all new] All incidents involving
- 30 acts of violence, possession of a weapon or possession, use or

- 1 sale of controlled substances as defined in the act of April 14,
- 2 1972 (P.L.233, No.64), known as "The Controlled Substance, Drug,
- 3 Device and Cosmetic Act," or possession, use or sale of alcohol
- 4 or tobacco by any person on school property shall be reported to
- 5 the office through the safe schools online portal pursuant to
- 6 the procedure set forth in section 1303.2-A. [The incidents to
- 7 be reported to the office shall include all incidents involving
- 8 conduct that constitutes a criminal offense listed under
- 9 paragraphs (4.1) and (4.2). Reports on a form to be developed
- 10 and provided by the office shall include] Reports though the
- 11 acts of violence online interface within the safe schools online
- 12 portal required under section 1303.2-A shall include, at a
- 13 minimum, the following information:
- 14 (1) Age or grade of student.
- 15 (2) Name and address of school.
- 16 (3) Circumstances surrounding the incident, including, but
- 17 not limited to, type of weapon, controlled substance, alcohol or
- 18 tobacco, the date, time and location of the incident, if a
- 19 person other than a student is involved in the incident and any
- 20 relationship to the school entity.
- 21 (3.1) Race of student.
- 22 (3.2) Whether the student has an Individualized Education
- 23 Plan under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act
- 24 (Public Law 91-230, 20 U.S.C. § 1400 et seq.), and if so, the
- 25 type of disability.
- 26 (4) Sanction imposed by the school.
- 27 (4.1) A list of criminal offenses which shall, at a minimum,
- 28 include:
- 29 (i) The following offenses under 18 Pa.C.S. (relating to
- 30 crimes and offenses):

- 1 Section 908 (relating to prohibited offensive weapons).
- 2 Section 912 (relating to possession of weapon on school
- 3 property).
- 4 Chapter 25 (relating to criminal homicide).
- 5 Section 2702 (relating to aggravated assault).
- 6 Section 2709.1 (relating to stalking).
- 7 Section 2901 (relating to kidnapping).
- 8 Section 2902 (relating to unlawful restraint).
- 9 Section 3121 (relating to rape).
- 10 Section 3122.1 (relating to statutory sexual assault).
- 11 Section 3123 (relating to involuntary deviate sexual
- 12 intercourse).
- 13 Section 3124.1 (relating to sexual assault).
- 14 Section 3124.2 (relating to institutional sexual assault).
- 15 Section 3125 (relating to aggravated indecent assault).
- 16 Section 3126 (relating to indecent assault).
- 17 Section 3301 (relating to arson and related offenses).
- 18 Section 3307 (relating to institutional vandalism) when the
- 19 penalty is a felony of the third degree.
- 20 Section 3502 (relating to burglary).
- 21 Section 3503(a) and (b)(1)(v) (relating to criminal
- 22 trespass).
- 23 Section 5501 (relating to riot).
- 24 Section 6110.1 (relating to possession of firearm by minor).
- 25 (ii) The possession, use or sale of a controlled substance
- 26 or drug paraphernalia as defined in "The Controlled Substance,
- 27 Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act."
- 28 (iii) Attempts, solicitation or conspiracy to commit any of
- 29 the offenses listed in subclauses (i) and (ii).
- 30 (iv) An offense for which registration is required under 42

- 1 Pa.C.S. § 9795.1 (relating to registration).
- 2 (4.2) The following offenses under 18 Pa.C.S., and any
- 3 attempt, solicitation or conspiracy to commit any of these
- 4 offenses:
- 5 Section 2701 (relating to simple assault).
- 6 Section 2705 (relating to recklessly endangering another
- 7 person).
- 8 Section 2706 (relating to terroristic threats).
- 9 Section 2709 (relating to harassment).
- 10 Section 3127 (relating to indecent exposure).
- 11 Section 3307 (relating to institutional vandalism) when the
- 12 penalty is a misdemeanor of the second degree.
- 13 Section 3503(b)(1)(i), (ii), (iii) and (iv), (b.1) and (b.2)
- 14 (relating to criminal trespass).
- 15 Chapter 39 (relating to theft and related offenses).
- Section 5502 (relating to failure of disorderly persons to
- 17 disperse upon official order).
- 18 Section 5503 (relating to disorderly conduct).
- 19 Section 6305 (relating to sale of tobacco).
- 20 Section 6306.1 (relating to use of tobacco in schools
- 21 prohibited).
- 22 Section 6308 (relating to purchase, consumption, possession
- 23 or transportation of liquor or malt or brewed beverages).
- 24 (4.3) If the discipline infraction was a violation of the
- 25 policy adopted under section 1303.1-A.
- 26 (5) Notification of law enforcement.
- 27 (5.1) Law enforcement response.
- 28 (6) Remedial programs involved.
- 29 (7) Parental involvement required.
- 30 (8) Arrests, convictions and adjudications, if known.

- 1 (b.1) [Prior to submitting the report required under
- 2 subsection (b), each chief school administrator] The chief
- 3 <u>school administrator shall send an acts of violence online</u>
- 4 report from the acts of violence online interface within the
- 5 <u>safe schools online portal established pursuant to section</u>
- 6 1303.2-A to the police department that has jurisdiction over the
- 7 relevant school property on an annual basis. Each chief school
- 8 <u>administrator</u> and each police department having jurisdiction
- 9 over school property of the school entity shall [do all of the
- 10 following] have the following duties:
- 11 (1) [No later than thirty (30) days prior to the deadline
- 12 for submitting the report to the office required under
- 13 subsection (b), the] <u>The</u> chief school administrator shall submit
- 14 the report to the police department with jurisdiction over the
- 15 relevant school property. The police department shall review the
- 16 report and compare the data regarding criminal offenses and
- 17 notification of law enforcement to determine whether the report
- 18 accurately reflects police incident data.
- 19 (2) No later than [fifteen (15) days prior to the deadline
- 20 for the chief school administrator to submit the report required
- 21 under subsection (b) | twenty-one (21) days after receiving the
- 22 <u>acts of violence report</u>, the police department shall notify the
- 23 chief school administrator, in writing, whether the report
- 24 accurately reflects police incident data. Where the police
- 25 department determines that the report accurately reflects police
- 26 incident data, the chief of police shall sign the report. Where
- 27 the police department determines that the report does not
- 28 accurately reflect police incident data, the police department
- 29 shall indicate any discrepancies between the report and police
- 30 incident data.

- 1 (3) [Prior to submitting the report required under
- 2 subsection (b), the] The chief school administrator and the
- 3 police department shall attempt to resolve discrepancies between
- 4 the report and police incident data. Where a discrepancy remains
- 5 unresolved, the police department shall notify the chief school
- 6 administrator and the office in writing.
- 7 (4) Where a police department fails to take action as
- 8 required under paragraph (1), (2) or (3), the chief school
- 9 administrator [shall submit the report required under subsection
- 10 (b) and indicate that the police department failed to take
- 11 action as required under paragraph (2) or (3)] shall indicate
- 12 the police department's failure to take action by entering the
- 13 <u>information in the acts of violence online interface within the</u>
- 14 <u>safe schools online portal pursuant to subsection (b)</u>.
- 15 (c) Each chief school administrator shall form an advisory
- 16 committee composed of relevant school staff, including, but not
- 17 limited to, principals, security personnel, school resource
- 18 officers, guidance counselors and special education
- 19 administrators, to assist in the development of a memorandum of
- 20 understanding pursuant to this section. In consultation with the
- 21 advisory committee, each chief school administrator shall enter
- 22 into a memorandum of understanding with police departments
- 23 having jurisdiction over school property of the school entity.
- 24 Each chief school administrator shall submit a copy of the
- 25 memorandum of understanding to the office by June 30, 2011, and
- 26 biennially update and re-execute a memorandum of understanding
- 27 with local law enforcement and file such memorandum with the
- 28 office on a biennial basis. The memorandum of understanding
- 29 shall be signed by the chief school administrator, the chief of
- 30 police of the police department with jurisdiction over the

- 1 relevant school property and principals of each school building
- 2 of the school entity. The memorandum of understanding shall
- 3 comply with the regulations promulgated by the State Board of
- 4 Education under section 1302.1-A and shall also include:
- 5 (1) The procedure for police department review of the annual
- 6 report required under subsection (b) [prior to the chief school
- 7 administrator filing the report required under subsection (b)
- 8 with the office].
- 9 (2) A procedure for the resolution of school violence data
- 10 discrepancies in the report [prior to filing the report required
- 11 under subsection (b) with the office].
- 12 (3) Additional matters pertaining to crime prevention agreed
- 13 to between the chief school administrator and the police
- 14 department.
- 15 * * *
- 16 (e) * * *
- 17 (2) In addition to any other disciplinary actions set forth
- 18 in the "Professional Educator Discipline Act," a chief school
- 19 administrator or principal of a school entity who intentionally
- 20 fails to [submit the report] enter thorough and accurate
- 21 information into the acts of violence online interface as
- 22 required under subsection (b) or enter into the memorandum of
- 23 understanding with the police department with jurisdiction over
- 24 the relevant school property, report an incident involving an
- 25 act of violence, possession of a weapon or an offense cited
- 26 under subsection (b) (4.1) that occurs on school property to a
- 27 police department or submit a copy of the memorandum of
- 28 understanding to the office as required under subsection (c) or
- 29 who intentionally falsifies a report submitted as required under
- 30 this section shall be subject to prosecution for violation of 18

- 1 Pa.C.S. § 4904 (relating to unsworn falsification to
- 2 authorities). The following civil penalties may be imposed by
- 3 the Professional Standards and Practices Commission for
- 4 violations of this article:
- 5 (i) for a first violation, \$2,500;
- 6 (ii) for a second violation, \$3,500; or
- 7 (iii) for a third or subsequent violation, \$5,000.
- 8 Any penalty imposed under this paragraph shall be paid to the
- 9 Department of Education and used for the support of the office.
- 10 Section 4. Section 1303.1-A of the act, added July 9, 2008
- 11 (P.L.846, No.61), is amended to read:
- 12 Section 1303.1-A. Policy Relating to Bullying.--[(a) No
- 13 later than January 1, 2009, each school entity shall adopt a
- 14 policy or amend its existing policy relating to bullying and
- 15 incorporate the policy into the school entity's code of student
- 16 conduct required under 22 Pa. Code § 12.3(c) (relating to school
- 17 rules). The policy shall delineate disciplinary consequences for
- 18 bullying and may provide for prevention, intervention and
- 19 education programs, provided that no school entity shall be
- 20 required to establish a new policy under this section if one
- 21 currently exists and reasonably fulfills the requirements of
- 22 this section. The policy shall identify the appropriate school
- 23 staff person to receive reports of incidents of alleged
- 24 bullying.
- 25 (b) Each school entity shall make the policy available on
- 26 its publicly accessible Internet website, if available, and in
- 27 every classroom. Each school entity shall post the policy at a
- 28 prominent location within each school building where such
- 29 notices are usually posted. Each school entity shall ensure that
- 30 the policy and procedures for reporting bullying incidents are

- 1 reviewed with students within ninety (90) days after their
- 2 adoption and thereafter at least once each school year.
- 3 (c) Each school entity shall review its policy every three
- 4 (3) years and annually provide the office with a copy of its
- 5 policy relating to bullying, including information related to
- 6 the development and implementation of any bullying prevention,
- 7 intervention and education programs. The information required
- 8 under this subsection shall be attached to or made part of the
- 9 annual report required under section 1303-A(b).
- 10 (d) In its policy relating to bullying adopted or maintained
- 11 under subsection (a), a school entity shall not be prohibited
- 12 from defining bullying in such a way as to encompass acts that
- 13 occur outside a school setting if those acts meet the
- 14 requirements contained in subsection (e)(1), (3) and (4). If a
- 15 school entity reports acts of bullying to the office in
- 16 accordance with section 1303-A(b), it shall report all incidents
- 17 that qualify as bullying under the entity's adopted definition
- 18 of that term.
- 19 (e) For purposes of this article, "bullying" shall mean an
- 20 intentional electronic, written, verbal or physical act, or a
- 21 series of acts:
- 22 (1) directed at another student or students;
- 23 (2) which occurs in a school setting;
- 24 (3) that is severe, persistent or pervasive; and
- 25 (4) that has the effect of doing any of the following:
- 26 (i) substantially interfering with a student's education;
- 27 (ii) creating a threatening environment; or
- 28 (iii) substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the
- 29 school; and
- "school setting" shall mean in the school, on school grounds,

- 1 in school vehicles, at a designated bus stop or at any activity
- 2 sponsored, supervised or sanctioned by the school.]
- 3 (f) No later than July 1, 2016, each school entity shall
- 4 adopt the Department of Education's model policy related to
- 5 <u>bullying required under section 1303.2-A(5) or an alternative</u>
- 6 policy that includes at a minimum the requirements of section
- 7 1303.2-A(5) prohibiting harassment, bullying and cyberbullying.
- 8 A school entity may comply with this subsection by amending its
- 9 existing policy to include, at a minimum, the requirements of
- 10 section 1303.2-A(5). The school entity shall involve students,
- 11 parents, administrators, school staff, school volunteers and
- 12 <u>local law enforcement agencies in the process of adopting an</u>
- 13 <u>alternative policy</u>, <u>if it chooses not to implement the</u>
- 14 <u>Department of Education's model policy related to bullying.</u>
- 15 (g) Each school building shall adopt and follow the bullying
- 16 policy that has been established by the school entity where the
- 17 school building is located.
- 18 (h) Each school entity shall incorporate its bullying policy
- 19 into the school entity's code of student conduct required under
- 20 22 Pa. Code § 12.3(c) (relating to school rules). The school
- 21 entity's policy shall be implemented in a manner that is ongoing
- 22 throughout the school year and integrated with each school
- 23 entity's discipline policies and other violence prevention
- 24 efforts. Any discipline imposed under the policy must be
- 25 consistent with Federal and State law.
- 26 (i) Students, school staff and volunteers shall engage in no
- 27 harassment, bullying or cyber bullying that takes place:
- 28 (1) in a school setting; or
- 29 (2) through use of electronic communication, outside a
- 30 school setting, that is directed at a student and is so severe,

- 1 persistent or pervasive that it substantially interferes with a
- 2 <u>student's ability to participate in or benefit from the</u>
- 3 <u>services</u>, <u>activities</u> or <u>privileges</u> <u>provided</u> by a <u>school</u>.
- 4 (j) A school employe who promptly reports in good faith an
- 5 act of harassment, bullying or cyberbullying to the appropriate
- 6 <u>school official designated in the school entity's policy</u>
- 7 <u>established under this section and who makes the report in</u>
- 8 compliance with the procedures specified in the policy shall be
- 9 <u>immune from a cause of action for damages arising out of the</u>
- 10 <u>reporting.</u>
- 11 (k) Nothing in this section shall be construed:
- 12 (1) to prevent a victim of harassment, bullying or
- 13 cyberbullying from seeking redress under any other available
- 14 civil or criminal law; or
- 15 (2) to infringe upon the right of a school employe or
- 16 student to engage in speech or expression protected by the
- 17 Constitution of the United States or the Constitution of
- 18 Pennsylvania.
- 19 (1) If any provision of this section or the application
- 20 thereof to any person or circumstance is held invalid, the
- 21 invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of
- 22 the section which can be given effect without the invalid
- 23 provision or application and to this end the provisions of this
- 24 section are declared severable.
- 25 Section 5. The act is amended by adding a section to read:
- 26 Section 1303.2-A. Powers and Duties of Department of
- 27 Education. -- The Department of Education shall have the following
- 28 powers and duties:
- 29 (1) By November 1, 2015, establish, develop and maintain a
- 30 secure Internet safe schools online portal which shall be

- 1 accessible only by employes of the Department of Education and
- 2 the professional school employes in each school entity. The
- 3 portal shall include:
- 4 (i) A bullying interface for school employes to enter and
- 5 track bullying incidents and follow-up. At a minimum, the safe
- 6 schools online bullying interface shall include areas to enter
- 7 information related to:
- 8 (A) All complaints related to the specific incident of
- 9 <u>harassment</u>, <u>bullying or cyberbullying</u>.
- 10 (B) Names of each party involved, including the name of the
- 11 <u>individual who entered the details of the incident into the</u>
- 12 <u>online portal.</u>
- (C) Complete and accurate information regarding the
- 14 <u>investigation</u>, including the name of the individual responsible
- 15 <u>for the investigation</u>.
- 16 (D) Complete and accurate information regarding the
- 17 resolution of the complaint.
- 18 (ii) An acts of violence interface to enter and track all
- 19 incidents involving acts of violence, possession of a weapon or
- 20 possession, use or sale of controlled substances as defined in
- 21 section 2 of the act of April 14, 1972 (P.L.233, No.64), known
- 22 <u>as "The Controlled Substance, Drug, Device and Cosmetic Act," or</u>
- 23 possession, use or sale of alcohol or tobacco by any person on
- 24 school property. At a minimum, the acts of violence interface
- 25 shall include all information required under section 1303-A. At
- 26 the discretion of the Department of Education, the acts of
- 27 violence interface may be integrated with the bullying interface
- 28 established under subparagraph (i) to create a single interface
- 29 for entering all required information for an act of violence or
- 30 a case of bullying.

- 1 (iii) Automatic, periodic generation of appropriate bullying
- 2 reports only for the individuals listed below in the following
- 3 intervals:
- 4 (A) Each school principal, monthly.
- 5 (B) Each chief school administrator, quarterly.
- 6 (C) The Secretary of Education, annually.
- 7 <u>(D) The General Assembly, annually.</u>
- 8 (iv) Automatic, periodic generation of appropriate acts of
- 9 <u>violence reports for the individuals listed below in the</u>
- 10 following intervals:
- 11 (A) Each school principal, monthly.
- 12 (B) Each chief school administrator, quarterly.
- 13 (C) The Secretary of Education, annually.
- 14 <u>(D) The General Assembly, annually.</u>
- 15 (v) Automatic e-mailing of bullying and acts of violence
- 16 reports to the individuals and in the intervals specified in
- 17 subparagraphs (iii) and (iv).
- 18 (vi) Automatic e-mailing of bullying incident deadline
- 19 reminders to individuals responsible for the investigation.
- 20 (vii) The online training and examination programs
- 21 established in paragraphs (3) and (4).
- 22 (2) Ensure all of the following:
- 23 (i) All reports produced for the chief school administrator,
- 24 the Secretary of Education and the General Assembly do not
- 25 <u>include the names or other identifying information of the</u>
- 26 students involved in bullying incidents, the individuals who
- 27 reported the incidents or the individuals who entered the
- 28 incident data into the online portal.
- 29 (ii) No option for the production of custom gueries or
- 30 reports include any individually identifiable information.

- 1 (iii) No option for any user to search for incident data by
- 2 the name of any party involved in the incident.
- 3 (iv) No means for any user to access the raw data within the
- 4 <u>online portal.</u>
- 5 <u>(v) Automatic deletion of all student-identifiable data no</u>
- 6 later than thirty (30) days after resolution of the complaint.
- 7 (3) By November 1, 2015, develop an online training program
- 8 to fulfill the continuing education requirement on prevention
- 9 of, and intervention in, harassment, bullying and cyberbullying
- 10 established under section 1205.2(a.1).
- 11 (4) By November 1, 2015, develop an online examination
- 12 program to fulfill the continuing education requirement on
- 13 prevention of, and intervention in, harassment, bullying and
- 14 <u>cyberbullying established under section 1205.2(a.1).</u>
- 15 <u>(5) No later than January 1, 2016, develop and establish a</u>
- 16 model policy related to bullying. The policy shall contain, at a
- 17 minimum, the following:
- 18 (i) A statement prohibiting harassment, bullying and
- 19 cyberbullying of a student and explaining the scope of the
- 20 prohibition, including a statement that the policy applies to
- 21 school sponsored functions.
- 22 <u>(ii) The definitions of "bullying," "cyberbullying" and</u>
- 23 "harassment" as stated in section 1301-A.
- 24 (iii) Consequences and appropriate remedial action,
- 25 including positive behavior support as defined in 22 Pa. Code §
- 26 14.133 (relating to positive behavior support), for a person who
- 27 <u>commits an act of harassment, bullying or cyberbullying.</u>
- 28 Disciplinary consequences for harassment, bullying and
- 29 cyberbullying shall be unique to the individual incident and
- 30 vary in severity based on the nature of the incident, the

- 1 <u>developmental age of the perpetrator and the perpetrator's</u>
- 2 history of problem behaviors.
- 3 (iv) A procedure for students, school employes and school
- 4 <u>administrators to report an act of harassment, bullying or</u>
- 5 cyberbullying. The procedure shall include the following:
- 6 (A) A person, other than a school employe, may report an act
- 7 <u>of harassment, bullying or cyberbullying anonymously to a school</u>
- 8 <u>employe</u>, provided that no formal disciplinary action is taken
- 9 solely on the basis of an anonymous report.
- 10 (B) All acts of harassment, bullying or cyberbullying shall
- 11 <u>be entered into the safe schools online portal established under</u>
- 12 section 1303.2-A(4) within forty-eight (48) hours of when the
- 13 <u>school employe witnessed or received reliable information that a</u>
- 14 student had been subject to harassment, bullying or
- 15 <u>cyberbullying.</u>
- 16 (C) No later than forty-eight (48) hours after notice of an
- 17 alleged incident, the principal or principal's designee shall
- 18 inform the parents or quardians of all students involved in the
- 19 alleged incident. Prior to notification of any parent, quardian
- 20 or student regarding any incident of harassment, bullying or
- 21 cyberbullying, the principal or principal's designee shall
- 22 consider the age, health, well-being, safety and privacy of any
- 23 <u>student involved in the incident. The principal or principal's</u>
- 24 designee may discuss, as appropriate, the availability of
- 25 <u>counseling and other intervention or protective services.</u>
- 26 (v) A procedure for prompt investigation of reports of
- 27 <u>violations and complaints, which procedure shall, at a minimum,</u>
- 28 provide that:
- 29 (A) The investigation shall be conducted by the principal or
- 30 the principal's designee.

- 1 (B) The investigation shall be completed as soon as
- 2 possible, but no later than twenty-one (21) days from the date
- 3 the report is entered into the safe schools online portal.
- 4 (C) The results of any such investigation shall be reported
- 5 to the principal, if not directly involved in the investigation,
- 6 and chief school administrator. The principal or chief school
- 7 <u>administrator shall decide whether to provide intervention</u>
- 8 <u>services</u>, <u>establish or enhance training programs to reduce</u>
- 9 <u>harassment, bullying or cyberbullying and improve school</u>
- 10 climate, impose discipline, order counseling or take or
- 11 recommend other appropriate action based on the findings of the
- 12 <u>investigation</u>.
- 13 (D) The safe schools online portal shall be updated and
- 14 <u>finalized with complete and accurate information regarding the</u>
- 15 <u>incident by the principal or designee in charge of the</u>
- 16 <u>investigation within forty-eight (48) hours after the</u>
- 17 investigation has ended.
- 18 (E) Upon request, students who are parties to the
- 19 investigation shall receive information about the investigation,
- 20 subject to Federal and State law and regulation, including the
- 21 nature of the investigation, whether the school entity found
- 22 evidence of harassment, bullying or cyberbullying and whether
- 23 <u>discipline was imposed or services provided to address the</u>
- 24 incident of harassment, bullying or cyberbullying. This
- 25 information shall be provided in writing within five (5) days of
- 26 the request.
- 27 (F) Any party that is dissatisfied with the outcome of an
- 28 investigation and subsequent action taken may appeal to the
- 29 governing body of the school entity within thirty (30) days
- 30 after the issuance of the written report.

- 1 (vi) A statement that prohibits retaliation against any
- 2 person who reports an act of harassment, bullying or
- 3 <u>cyberbullying, including a witness or a person with reliable</u>
- 4 <u>information about such an act, and the consequence and</u>
- 5 appropriate remedial action for a person who engages in
- 6 <u>retaliation</u>.
- 7 (vii) A statement of the manner in which the policy is to be
- 8 <u>publicized</u>. The statement shall include:
- 9 (A) A requirement that a link to the policy shall be
- 10 prominently posted on the school entity's publicly accessible
- 11 Internet website and that each school entity shall post the
- 12 policy at a prominent location within each school building where
- 13 such notices are usually posted or in each classroom.
- 14 (B) A requirement that the name, school telephone number,
- 15 school address and school e-mail address of the principal or
- 16 <u>designee responsible for investigating harassment, bullying and</u>
- 17 cyberbullying shall be prominently listed on the school entity's
- 18 publicly accessible Internet website.
- 19 (C) A requirement that the policy shall be distributed
- 20 annually to students and their parents. The policy may be
- 21 included in a student Code of Conduct and Family Educational
- 22 Rights and Privacy Act statement under the Family Educational
- 23 Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (Pubic Law 90-247, 20 U.S.C. §
- 24 1232q).
- 25 (D) A statement that the school entity shall ensure that the
- 26 policy and procedures for reporting bullying are reviewed with
- 27 <u>students within ninety (90) days after their adoption and</u>
- 28 thereafter at least once per school year.
- 29 (viii) A statement that the school entity shall review its
- 30 policy every three (3) years and annually provide the Department

- 1 of Education with a copy of its policy prohibiting harassment,
- 2 <u>bullying and cyberbullying if it uses an alternate policy</u>
- 3 instead of the Department of Education's model policy.
- 4 (ix) Provisions for the formation of bullying prevention
- 5 task forces, programs, associated trainings and other
- 6 initiatives involving school staff, pupils, administrators,
- 7 volunteers, parents, law enforcement, community members and
- 8 other stakeholders, as deemed appropriate by the school entity.
- 9 (x) Annual training for administrators, school employes and
- 10 volunteers who have significant contact with students in
- 11 preventing, identifying, responding to and reporting incidents
- 12 of harassment, bullying or cyberbullying. School entities may
- 13 <u>incorporate training into existing annual training sessions or</u>
- 14 <u>seminars related to other school matters.</u>
- 15 (6) By January 1, 2016, compile and make available to all
- 16 school entities a list of programs appropriate for the
- 17 prevention of harassment, bullying or cyberbullying of students,
- 18 including programs that are available to school entities for
- 19 free or at reduced costs.
- 20 (7) Periodically review school entity policies, programs,
- 21 activities and services to determine whether the school entities
- 22 are complying with this section and section 1303.1-A.
- 23 Section 6. Any regulations of the Department of Education
- 24 that are inconsistent with this act are hereby abrogated to the
- 25 extent of the inconsistency.
- 26 Section 7. This act shall take effect in 60 days.