



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB4674

Introduced 2/3/2026, by Rep. Maurice A. West, II

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

105 ILCS 5/22-110
105 ILCS 5/22-112 new

was 105 ILCS 5/27-23.7

Amends the School Code. Requires a policy on bullying to establish escalating interventions for students who engage in known, pervasive, and persistent bullying. Provides that in the event of the death by suicide of a student enrolled in a school district, the school district shall initiate a complete and transparent investigation to determine whether bullying or harassment related to the educational environment played a contributing role; sets forth investigation requirements. Requires the school district, upon completion of the investigation, to prepare a written investigative report summarizing findings, conclusions, and recommended corrective actions; sets forth report requirements. Allows the State Board of Education to review the report for compliance and to require a corrective action plan or an additional review if deficiencies are identified.

LRB104 17817 LNS 31250 b

STATE MANDATES
ACT MAY REQUIRE
REIMBURSEMENT

A BILL FOR

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by changing Section
5 22-110 and by adding Section 22-112 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/22-110) (was 105 ILCS 5/27-23.7)

7 (Text of Section before amendment by P.A. 104-338)

8 Sec. 22-110. Bullying prevention.

9 (a) The General Assembly finds that a safe and civil
10 school environment is necessary for students to learn and
11 achieve and that bullying causes physical, psychological, and
12 emotional harm to students and interferes with students'
13 ability to learn and participate in school activities. The
14 General Assembly further finds that bullying has been linked
15 to other forms of antisocial behavior, such as vandalism,
16 shoplifting, skipping and dropping out of school, fighting,
17 using drugs and alcohol, sexual harassment, and sexual
18 violence. Because of the negative outcomes associated with
19 bullying in schools, the General Assembly finds that school
20 districts, charter schools, and non-public, non-sectarian
21 elementary and secondary schools should educate students,
22 parents, and school district, charter school, or non-public,
23 non-sectarian elementary or secondary school personnel about

1 what behaviors constitute prohibited bullying.

2 Bullying on the basis of actual or perceived race, color,
3 religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, physical appearance,
4 socioeconomic status, academic status, pregnancy, parenting
5 status, homelessness, age, marital status, physical or mental
6 disability, military status, sexual orientation,
7 gender-related identity or expression, unfavorable discharge
8 from military service, association with a person or group with
9 one or more of the aforementioned actual or perceived
10 characteristics, or any other distinguishing characteristic is
11 prohibited in all school districts, charter schools, and
12 non-public, non-sectarian elementary and secondary schools. No
13 student shall be subjected to bullying:

14 (1) during any school-sponsored education program or
15 activity;

16 (2) while in school, on school property, on school
17 buses or other school vehicles, at designated school bus
18 stops waiting for the school bus, or at school-sponsored
19 or school-sanctioned events or activities;

20 (3) through the transmission of information from a
21 school computer, a school computer network, or other
22 similar electronic school equipment; or

23 (4) through the transmission of information from a
24 computer that is accessed at a nonschool-related location,
25 activity, function, or program or from the use of
26 technology or an electronic device that is not owned,

1 leased, or used by a school district or school if the
2 bullying causes a substantial disruption to the
3 educational process or orderly operation of a school. This
4 item (4) applies only in cases in which a school
5 administrator or teacher receives a report that bullying
6 through this means has occurred and does not require a
7 district or school to staff or monitor any
8 nonschool-related activity, function, or program.

9 (a-5) Nothing in this Section is intended to infringe upon
10 any right to exercise free expression or the free exercise of
11 religion or religiously based views protected under the First
12 Amendment to the United States Constitution or under Section 3
13 of Article I of the Illinois Constitution.

14 (b) In this Section:

15 "Bullying" includes "cyber-bullying" and means any severe
16 or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including
17 communications made in writing or electronically, directed
18 toward a student or students that has or can be reasonably
19 predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

20 (1) placing the student or students in reasonable fear
21 of harm to the student's or students' person or property;

22 (2) causing a substantially detrimental effect on the
23 student's or students' physical or mental health;

24 (3) substantially interfering with the student's or
25 students' academic performance; or

26 (4) substantially interfering with the student's or

1 students' ability to participate in or benefit from the
2 services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

3 Bullying, as defined in this subsection (b), may take
4 various forms, including, without limitation, one or more of
5 the following: harassment, threats, intimidation, stalking,
6 physical violence, sexual harassment, sexual violence, theft,
7 public humiliation, destruction of property, or retaliation
8 for asserting or alleging an act of bullying. This list is
9 meant to be illustrative and non-exhaustive.

10 "Cyber-bullying" means bullying through the use of
11 technology or any electronic communication, including, without
12 limitation, any transfer of signs, signals, writing, images,
13 sounds, data, or intelligence of any nature transmitted in
14 whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic system,
15 photoelectronic system, or photooptical system, including,
16 without limitation, electronic mail, Internet communications,
17 instant messages, or facsimile communications.

18 "Cyber-bullying" includes the creation of a webpage or weblog
19 in which the creator assumes the identity of another person or
20 the knowing impersonation of another person as the author of
21 posted content or messages if the creation or impersonation
22 creates any of the effects enumerated in the definition of
23 bullying in this Section. "Cyber-bullying" also includes the
24 distribution by electronic means of a communication to more
25 than one person or the posting of material on an electronic
26 medium that may be accessed by one or more persons if the

1 distribution or posting creates any of the effects enumerated
2 in the definition of bullying in this Section.

3 "Policy on bullying" means a bullying prevention policy
4 that meets the following criteria:

5 (1) Includes the bullying definition provided in this
6 Section.

7 (2) Includes a statement that bullying is contrary to
8 State law and the policy of the school district, charter
9 school, or non-public, non-sectarian elementary or
10 secondary school and is consistent with subsection (a-5)
11 of this Section.

12 (3) Includes procedures for promptly reporting
13 bullying, including, but not limited to, identifying and
14 providing the school e-mail address (if applicable) and
15 school telephone number for the staff person or persons
16 responsible for receiving such reports and a procedure for
17 anonymous reporting; however, this shall not be construed
18 to permit formal disciplinary action solely on the basis
19 of an anonymous report.

20 (4) Consistent with federal and State laws and rules
21 governing student privacy rights, includes procedures for
22 informing parents or guardians of all students involved in
23 the alleged incident of bullying within 24 hours after the
24 school's administration is made aware of the students'
25 involvement in the incident and discussing, as
26 appropriate, the availability of social work services,

1 counseling, school psychological services, other
2 interventions, and restorative measures. The school shall
3 make diligent efforts to notify a parent or legal
4 guardian, utilizing all contact information the school has
5 available or that can be reasonably obtained by the school
6 within the 24-hour period.

7 (5) Contains procedures for promptly investigating and
8 addressing reports of bullying, including the following:

9 (A) Making all reasonable efforts to complete the
10 investigation within 10 school days after the date the
11 report of the incident of bullying was received and
12 taking into consideration additional relevant
13 information received during the course of the
14 investigation about the reported incident of bullying.

15 (B) Involving appropriate school support personnel
16 and other staff persons with knowledge, experience,
17 and training on bullying prevention, as deemed
18 appropriate, in the investigation process.

19 (C) Notifying the principal or school
20 administrator or his or her designee of the report of
21 the incident of bullying as soon as possible after the
22 report is received.

23 (D) Consistent with federal and State laws and
24 rules governing student privacy rights, providing
25 parents and guardians of the students who are parties
26 to the investigation information about the

1 investigation and an opportunity to meet with the
2 principal or school administrator or his or her
3 designee to discuss the investigation, the findings of
4 the investigation, and the actions taken to address
5 the reported incident of bullying.

6 (6) Includes the interventions that can be taken to
7 address bullying, which may include, but are not limited
8 to, school social work services, restorative measures,
9 social-emotional skill building, counseling, school
10 psychological services, and community-based services.

11 (7) Includes a statement prohibiting reprisal or
12 retaliation against any person who reports an act of
13 bullying and the consequences and appropriate remedial
14 actions for a person who engages in reprisal or
15 retaliation.

16 (8) Includes consequences and appropriate remedial
17 actions for a person found to have falsely accused another
18 of bullying as a means of retaliation or as a means of
19 bullying.

20 (9) Is based on the engagement of a range of school
21 stakeholders, including students and parents or guardians.

22 (10) Is posted on the school district's, charter
23 school's, or non-public, non-sectarian elementary or
24 secondary school's existing, publicly accessible Internet
25 website, is included in the student handbook, and, where
26 applicable, posted where other policies, rules, and

1 standards of conduct are currently posted in the school
2 and provided periodically throughout the school year to
3 students and faculty, and is distributed annually to
4 parents, guardians, students, and school personnel,
5 including new employees when hired.

6 (11) As part of the process of reviewing and
7 re-evaluating the policy under subsection (d) of this
8 Section, contains a policy evaluation process to assess
9 the outcomes and effectiveness of the policy that
10 includes, but is not limited to, factors such as the
11 frequency of victimization; student, staff, and family
12 observations of safety at a school; identification of
13 areas of a school where bullying occurs; the types of
14 bullying utilized; and bystander intervention or
15 participation. The school district, charter school, or
16 non-public, non-sectarian elementary or secondary school
17 may use relevant data and information it already collects
18 for other purposes in the policy evaluation. The
19 information developed as a result of the policy evaluation
20 must be made available on the Internet website of the
21 school district, charter school, or non-public,
22 non-sectarian elementary or secondary school. If an
23 Internet website is not available, the information must be
24 provided to school administrators, school board members,
25 school personnel, parents, guardians, and students.

26 (12) Is consistent with the policies of the school

1 board, charter school, or non-public, non-sectarian
2 elementary or secondary school.

3 (13) Requires all individual instances of bullying, as
4 well as all threats, suggestions, or instances of
5 self-harm determined to be the result of bullying, to be
6 reported to the parents or legal guardians of those
7 involved under the guidelines provided in paragraph (4) of
8 this definition.

9 "Restorative measures" means a continuum of school-based
10 alternatives to exclusionary discipline, such as suspensions
11 and expulsions, that: (i) are adapted to the particular needs
12 of the school and community, (ii) contribute to maintaining
13 school safety, (iii) protect the integrity of a positive and
14 productive learning climate, (iv) teach students the personal
15 and interpersonal skills they will need to be successful in
16 school and society, (v) serve to build and restore
17 relationships among students, families, schools, and
18 communities, (vi) reduce the likelihood of future disruption
19 by balancing accountability with an understanding of students'
20 behavioral health needs in order to keep students in school,
21 and (vii) increase student accountability if the incident of
22 bullying is based on religion, race, ethnicity, or any other
23 category that is identified in the Illinois Human Rights Act.

24 "School personnel" means persons employed by, on contract
25 with, or who volunteer in a school district, charter school,
26 or non-public, non-sectarian elementary or secondary school,

1 including, without limitation, school and school district
2 administrators, teachers, school social workers, school
3 counselors, school psychologists, school nurses, cafeteria
4 workers, custodians, bus drivers, school resource officers,
5 and security guards.

6 (c) (Blank).

7 (d) Each school district, charter school, and non-public,
8 non-sectarian elementary or secondary school shall create,
9 maintain, and implement a policy on bullying, which policy
10 must be filed with the State Board of Education. The policy on
11 bullying shall be based on the State Board of Education's
12 template for a model bullying prevention policy under
13 subsection (h) and shall include the criteria set forth in the
14 definition of "policy on bullying". The policy or implementing
15 procedure shall include a process to investigate whether a
16 reported act of bullying is within the permissible scope of
17 the district's or school's jurisdiction and shall require that
18 the district or school provide the victim with information
19 regarding services that are available within the district and
20 community, such as counseling, support services, and other
21 programs. School personnel available for help with a bully or
22 to make a report about bullying shall be made known to parents
23 or legal guardians, students, and school personnel. Every 2
24 years, each school district, charter school, and non-public,
25 non-sectarian elementary or secondary school shall conduct a
26 review and re-evaluation of its policy and make any necessary

1 and appropriate revisions. No later than September 30 of the
2 subject year, the policy must be filed with the State Board of
3 Education after being updated. The State Board of Education
4 shall monitor and provide technical support for the
5 implementation of policies created under this subsection (d).
6 In monitoring the implementation of the policies, the State
7 Board of Education shall review each filed policy on bullying
8 to ensure all policies meet the requirements set forth in this
9 Section, including ensuring that each policy meets the 12
10 criteria ~~criterion~~ identified within the definition of "policy
11 on bullying" set forth in this Section.

12 If a school district, charter school, or non-public,
13 non-sectarian elementary or secondary school fails to file a
14 policy on bullying by September 30 of the subject year, the
15 State Board of Education shall provide a written request for
16 filing to the school district, charter school, or non-public,
17 non-sectarian elementary or secondary school. If a school
18 district, charter school, or non-public, non-sectarian
19 elementary or secondary school fails to file a policy on
20 bullying within 14 days of receipt of the aforementioned
21 written request, the State Board of Education shall publish
22 notice of the non-compliance on the State Board of Education's
23 website.

24 Each school district, charter school, and non-public,
25 non-sectarian elementary or secondary school may provide
26 evidence-based professional development and youth programming

1 on bullying prevention that is consistent with the provisions
2 of this Section.

3 (e) This Section shall not be interpreted to prevent a
4 victim from seeking redress under any other available civil or
5 criminal law.

6 (f) School districts, charter schools, and non-public,
7 non-sectarian elementary and secondary schools shall collect,
8 maintain, and submit to the State Board of Education
9 non-identifiable data regarding verified allegations of
10 bullying within the school district, charter school, or
11 non-public, non-sectarian elementary or secondary school.
12 School districts, charter schools, and non-public,
13 non-sectarian elementary and secondary schools must submit
14 such data in an annual report due to the State Board of
15 Education no later than August 15 of each year starting with
16 the 2024-2025 school year through the 2030-2031 school year.
17 The State Board of Education shall adopt rules for the
18 submission of data that includes, but is not limited to: (i) a
19 record of each verified allegation of bullying and action
20 taken; and (ii) whether the instance of bullying was based on
21 actual or perceived characteristics identified in subsection
22 (a) and, if so, lists the relevant characteristics. The rules
23 for the submission of data shall be consistent with federal
24 and State laws and rules governing student privacy rights,
25 including, but not limited to, the federal Family Educational
26 Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 and the Illinois School Student

1 Records Act, which shall include, without limitation, a record
2 of each complaint and action taken. The State Board of
3 Education shall adopt rules regarding the notification of
4 school districts, charter schools, and non-public,
5 non-sectarian elementary and secondary schools that fail to
6 comply with the requirements of this subsection.

7 (g) Upon the request of a parent or legal guardian of a
8 child enrolled in a school district, charter school, or
9 non-public, non-sectarian elementary or secondary school
10 within this State, the State Board of Education must provide
11 non-identifiable data on the number of bullying allegations
12 and incidents in a given year in the school district, charter
13 school, or non-public, non-sectarian elementary or secondary
14 school to the requesting parent or legal guardian. The State
15 Board of Education shall adopt rules regarding (i) the
16 handling of such data, (ii) maintaining the privacy of the
17 students and families involved, and (iii) best practices for
18 sharing numerical data with parents and legal guardians.

19 (h) By January 1, 2024, the State Board of Education shall
20 post on its Internet website a template for a model bullying
21 prevention policy.

22 (i) The Illinois Bullying and Cyberbullying Prevention
23 Fund is created as a special fund in the State treasury. Any
24 moneys appropriated to the Fund may be used, subject to
25 appropriation, by the State Board of Education for the
26 purposes of subsection (j).

1 (j) Subject to appropriation, the State Superintendent of
2 Education may provide a grant to a school district, charter
3 school, or non-public, non-sectarian elementary or secondary
4 school to support its anti-bullying programming. Grants may be
5 awarded from the Illinois Bullying and Cyberbullying
6 Prevention Fund. School districts, charter schools, and
7 non-public, non-sectarian elementary or secondary schools that
8 are not in compliance with subsection (f) are not eligible to
9 receive a grant from the Illinois Bullying and Cyberbullying
10 Prevention Fund.

11 (Source: P.A. 103-47, eff. 6-9-23; 104-391, eff. 8-15-25;
12 revised 9-24-25.)

13 (Text of Section after amendment by P.A. 104-338)

14 Sec. 22-110. Bullying prevention.

15 (a) The General Assembly finds that a safe and civil
16 school environment is necessary for students to learn and
17 achieve and that bullying causes physical, psychological, and
18 emotional harm to students and interferes with students'
19 ability to learn and participate in school activities. The
20 General Assembly further finds that bullying has been linked
21 to other forms of antisocial behavior, such as vandalism,
22 shoplifting, skipping and dropping out of school, fighting,
23 using drugs and alcohol, sexual harassment, and sexual
24 violence. Because of the negative outcomes associated with
25 bullying in schools, the General Assembly finds that school

1 districts, charter schools, and non-public, non-sectarian
2 elementary and secondary schools should educate students,
3 parents, and school district, charter school, or non-public,
4 non-sectarian elementary or secondary school personnel about
5 what behaviors constitute prohibited bullying.

6 Bullying on the basis of actual or perceived race, color,
7 religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, physical appearance,
8 socioeconomic status, academic status, pregnancy, parenting
9 status, homelessness, age, marital status, physical or mental
10 disability, military status, sexual orientation,
11 gender-related identity or expression, unfavorable discharge
12 from military service, association with a person or group with
13 one or more of the aforementioned actual or perceived
14 characteristics, or any other distinguishing characteristic is
15 prohibited in all school districts, charter schools, and
16 non-public, non-sectarian elementary and secondary schools. No
17 student shall be subjected to bullying:

18 (1) during any school-sponsored education program or
19 activity;

20 (2) while in school, on school property, on school
21 buses or other school vehicles, at designated school bus
22 stops waiting for the school bus, or at school-sponsored
23 or school-sanctioned events or activities;

24 (3) through the transmission of information from a
25 school computer, a school computer network, or other
26 similar electronic school equipment; or

1 (4) through the transmission of information from a
2 computer that is accessed at a nonschool-related location,
3 activity, function, or program or from the use of
4 technology or an electronic device that is not owned,
5 leased, or used by a school district or school if the
6 bullying causes a substantial disruption to the
7 educational process or orderly operation of a school. This
8 item (4) applies only in cases in which a school
9 administrator or teacher receives a report that bullying
10 through this means has occurred and does not require a
11 district or school to staff or monitor any
12 nonschool-related activity, function, or program.

13 (a-5) Nothing in this Section is intended to infringe upon
14 any right to exercise free expression or the free exercise of
15 religion or religiously based views protected under the First
16 Amendment to the United States Constitution or under Section 3
17 of Article I of the Illinois Constitution.

18 (b) In this Section:

19 "Artificial intelligence" has the meaning given to that
20 term in the Digital Voice and Likeness Protection Act.

21 "Bullying" includes "cyber-bullying" and means any severe
22 or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including
23 communications made in writing or electronically, directed
24 toward a student or students that has or can be reasonably
25 predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

26 (1) placing the student or students in reasonable fear

1 of harm to the student's or students' person or property;

2 (2) causing a substantially detrimental effect on the
3 student's or students' physical or mental health;

4 (3) substantially interfering with the student's or
5 students' academic performance; or

6 (4) substantially interfering with the student's or
7 students' ability to participate in or benefit from the
8 services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

9 Bullying, as defined in this subsection (b), may take
10 various forms, including, without limitation, one or more of
11 the following: harassment, threats, intimidation, stalking,
12 physical violence, sexual harassment, sexual violence, posting
13 or distributing sexually explicit images, theft, public
14 humiliation, destruction of property, or retaliation for
15 asserting or alleging an act of bullying. This list is meant to
16 be illustrative and non-exhaustive.

17 "Cyber-bullying" means bullying through the use of
18 technology or any electronic communication, including, without
19 limitation, any transfer of signs, signals, writing, images,
20 sounds, data, or intelligence of any nature transmitted in
21 whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic system,
22 photoelectronic system, or photooptical system, including,
23 without limitation, electronic mail, Internet communications,
24 instant messages, or facsimile communications.

25 "Cyber-bullying" includes the creation of a webpage or weblog
26 in which the creator assumes the identity of another person or

1 the knowing impersonation of another person as the author of
2 posted content or messages if the creation or impersonation
3 creates any of the effects enumerated in the definition of
4 bullying in this Section. "Cyber-bullying" also includes the
5 distribution by electronic means of a communication to more
6 than one person or the posting of material on an electronic
7 medium that may be accessed by one or more persons if the
8 distribution or posting creates any of the effects enumerated
9 in the definition of bullying in this Section. Beginning with
10 the 2026-2027 school year, "cyber-bullying" also includes the
11 posting or distribution of an unauthorized digital replica by
12 electronic means if the posting or distribution creates any of
13 the effects enumerated in the definition of "bullying" in this
14 Section.

15 "Digital replica" has the meaning given to that term in
16 the Digital Voice and Likeness Protection Act.

17 "Policy on bullying" means a bullying prevention policy
18 that meets the following criteria:

19 (1) Includes the bullying definition provided in this
20 Section.

21 (2) Includes a statement that bullying is contrary to
22 State law and the policy of the school district, charter
23 school, or non-public, non-sectarian elementary or
24 secondary school and is consistent with subsection (a-5)
25 of this Section.

26 (3) Includes procedures for promptly reporting

1 bullying, including, but not limited to, identifying and
2 providing the school e-mail address (if applicable) and
3 school telephone number for the staff person or persons
4 responsible for receiving such reports and a procedure for
5 anonymous reporting; however, this shall not be construed
6 to permit formal disciplinary action solely on the basis
7 of an anonymous report.

8 (4) Consistent with federal and State laws and rules
9 governing student privacy rights, includes procedures for
10 informing parents or guardians of all students involved in
11 the alleged incident of bullying within 24 hours after the
12 school's administration is made aware of the students'
13 involvement in the incident and discussing, as
14 appropriate, the availability of social work services,
15 counseling, school psychological services, other
16 interventions, and restorative measures. The school shall
17 make diligent efforts to notify a parent or legal
18 guardian, utilizing all contact information the school has
19 available or that can be reasonably obtained by the school
20 within the 24-hour period.

21 (5) Contains procedures for promptly investigating and
22 addressing reports of bullying, including the following:

23 (A) Making all reasonable efforts to complete the
24 investigation within 10 school days after the date the
25 report of the incident of bullying was received and
26 taking into consideration additional relevant

1 information received during the course of the
2 investigation about the reported incident of bullying.

3 (B) Involving appropriate school support personnel
4 and other staff persons with knowledge, experience,
5 and training on bullying prevention, as deemed
6 appropriate, in the investigation process.

7 (C) Notifying the principal or school
8 administrator or his or her designee of the report of
9 the incident of bullying as soon as possible after the
10 report is received.

11 (D) Consistent with federal and State laws and
12 rules governing student privacy rights, providing
13 parents and guardians of the students who are parties
14 to the investigation information about the
15 investigation and an opportunity to meet with the
16 principal or school administrator or his or her
17 designee to discuss the investigation, the findings of
18 the investigation, and the actions taken to address
19 the reported incident of bullying.

20 (6) Includes the interventions that can be taken to
21 address bullying, which may include, but are not limited
22 to, school social work services, restorative measures,
23 social-emotional skill building, counseling, school
24 psychological services, and community-based services.

25 (6.5) Establishes escalating interventions for
26 students who engage in known, pervasive, and persistent

1 bullying.

2 (7) Includes a statement prohibiting reprisal or
3 retaliation against any person who reports an act of
4 bullying and the consequences and appropriate remedial
5 actions for a person who engages in reprisal or
6 retaliation.

7 (8) Includes consequences and appropriate remedial
8 actions for a person found to have falsely accused another
9 of bullying as a means of retaliation or as a means of
10 bullying.

11 (9) Is based on the engagement of a range of school
12 stakeholders, including students and parents or guardians.

13 (10) Is posted on the school district's, charter
14 school's, or non-public, non-sectarian elementary or
15 secondary school's existing, publicly accessible Internet
16 website, is included in the student handbook, and, where
17 applicable, posted where other policies, rules, and
18 standards of conduct are currently posted in the school
19 and provided periodically throughout the school year to
20 students and faculty, and is distributed annually to
21 parents, guardians, students, and school personnel,
22 including new employees when hired.

23 (11) As part of the process of reviewing and
24 re-evaluating the policy under subsection (d) of this
25 Section, contains a policy evaluation process to assess
26 the outcomes and effectiveness of the policy that

1 includes, but is not limited to, factors such as the
2 frequency of victimization; student, staff, and family
3 observations of safety at a school; identification of
4 areas of a school where bullying occurs; the types of
5 bullying utilized; and bystander intervention or
6 participation. The school district, charter school, or
7 non-public, non-sectarian elementary or secondary school
8 may use relevant data and information it already collects
9 for other purposes in the policy evaluation. The
10 information developed as a result of the policy evaluation
11 must be made available on the Internet website of the
12 school district, charter school, or non-public,
13 non-sectarian elementary or secondary school. If an
14 Internet website is not available, the information must be
15 provided to school administrators, school board members,
16 school personnel, parents, guardians, and students.

17 (12) Is consistent with the policies of the school
18 board, charter school, or non-public, non-sectarian
19 elementary or secondary school.

20 (13) Requires all individual instances of bullying, as
21 well as all threats, suggestions, or instances of
22 self-harm determined to be the result of bullying, to be
23 reported to the parents or legal guardians of those
24 involved under the guidelines provided in paragraph (4) of
25 this definition.

26 "Restorative measures" means a continuum of school-based

1 alternatives to exclusionary discipline, such as suspensions
2 and expulsions, that: (i) are adapted to the particular needs
3 of the school and community, (ii) contribute to maintaining
4 school safety, (iii) protect the integrity of a positive and
5 productive learning climate, (iv) teach students the personal
6 and interpersonal skills they will need to be successful in
7 school and society, (v) serve to build and restore
8 relationships among students, families, schools, and
9 communities, (vi) reduce the likelihood of future disruption
10 by balancing accountability with an understanding of students'
11 behavioral health needs in order to keep students in school,
12 and (vii) increase student accountability if the incident of
13 bullying is based on religion, race, ethnicity, or any other
14 category that is identified in the Illinois Human Rights Act.

15 "School personnel" means persons employed by, on contract
16 with, or who volunteer in a school district, charter school,
17 or non-public, non-sectarian elementary or secondary school,
18 including, without limitation, school and school district
19 administrators, teachers, school social workers, school
20 counselors, school psychologists, school nurses, cafeteria
21 workers, custodians, bus drivers, school resource officers,
22 and security guards.

23 "Unauthorized digital replica" means the use of a digital
24 replica of an individual without the consent of the depicted
25 individual.

26 (c) (Blank).

1 (d) Each school district, charter school, and non-public,
2 non-sectarian elementary or secondary school shall create,
3 maintain, and implement a policy on bullying, which policy
4 must be filed with the State Board of Education. The policy on
5 bullying shall be based on the State Board of Education's
6 template for a model bullying prevention policy under
7 subsection (h) and shall include the criteria set forth in the
8 definition of "policy on bullying". The policy or implementing
9 procedure shall include a process to investigate whether a
10 reported act of bullying is within the permissible scope of
11 the district's or school's jurisdiction and shall require that
12 the district or school provide the victim with information
13 regarding services that are available within the district and
14 community, such as counseling, support services, and other
15 programs. School personnel available for help with a bully or
16 to make a report about bullying shall be made known to parents
17 or legal guardians, students, and school personnel. Every 2
18 years, each school district, charter school, and non-public,
19 non-sectarian elementary or secondary school shall conduct a
20 review and re-evaluation of its policy and make any necessary
21 and appropriate revisions. No later than September 30 of the
22 subject year, the policy must be filed with the State Board of
23 Education after being updated. The State Board of Education
24 shall monitor and provide technical support for the
25 implementation of policies created under this subsection (d).
26 In monitoring the implementation of the policies, the State

1 Board of Education shall review each filed policy on bullying
2 to ensure all policies meet the requirements set forth in this
3 Section, including ensuring that each policy meets the 13
4 criteria ~~criterion~~ identified within the definition of "policy
5 on bullying" set forth in this Section.

6 If a school district, charter school, or non-public,
7 non-sectarian elementary or secondary school fails to file a
8 policy on bullying by September 30 of the subject year, the
9 State Board of Education shall provide a written request for
10 filing to the school district, charter school, or non-public,
11 non-sectarian elementary or secondary school. If a school
12 district, charter school, or non-public, non-sectarian
13 elementary or secondary school fails to file a policy on
14 bullying within 14 days of receipt of the aforementioned
15 written request, the State Board of Education shall publish
16 notice of the non-compliance on the State Board of Education's
17 website.

18 Each school district, charter school, and non-public,
19 non-sectarian elementary or secondary school may provide
20 evidence-based professional development and youth programming
21 on bullying prevention that is consistent with the provisions
22 of this Section.

23 (e) This Section shall not be interpreted to prevent a
24 victim from seeking redress under any other available civil or
25 criminal law.

26 (f) School districts, charter schools, and non-public,

1 non-sectarian elementary and secondary schools shall collect,
2 maintain, and submit to the State Board of Education
3 non-identifiable data regarding verified allegations of
4 bullying within the school district, charter school, or
5 non-public, non-sectarian elementary or secondary school.
6 School districts, charter schools, and non-public,
7 non-sectarian elementary and secondary schools must submit
8 such data in an annual report due to the State Board of
9 Education no later than August 15 of each year starting with
10 the 2024-2025 school year through the 2030-2031 school year.
11 The State Board of Education shall adopt rules for the
12 submission of data that includes, but is not limited to: (i) a
13 record of each verified allegation of bullying and action
14 taken; and (ii) whether the instance of bullying was based on
15 actual or perceived characteristics identified in subsection
16 (a) and, if so, lists the relevant characteristics. The rules
17 for the submission of data shall be consistent with federal
18 and State laws and rules governing student privacy rights,
19 including, but not limited to, the federal Family Educational
20 Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 and the Illinois School Student
21 Records Act, which shall include, without limitation, a record
22 of each complaint and action taken. The State Board of
23 Education shall adopt rules regarding the notification of
24 school districts, charter schools, and non-public,
25 non-sectarian elementary and secondary schools that fail to
26 comply with the requirements of this subsection.

1 (g) Upon the request of a parent or legal guardian of a
2 child enrolled in a school district, charter school, or
3 non-public, non-sectarian elementary or secondary school
4 within this State, the State Board of Education must provide
5 non-identifiable data on the number of bullying allegations
6 and incidents in a given year in the school district, charter
7 school, or non-public, non-sectarian elementary or secondary
8 school to the requesting parent or legal guardian. The State
9 Board of Education shall adopt rules regarding (i) the
10 handling of such data, (ii) maintaining the privacy of the
11 students and families involved, and (iii) best practices for
12 sharing numerical data with parents and legal guardians.

13 (h) By January 1, 2024, the State Board of Education shall
14 post on its Internet website a template for a model bullying
15 prevention policy.

16 (i) The Illinois Bullying and Cyberbullying Prevention
17 Fund is created as a special fund in the State treasury. Any
18 moneys appropriated to the Fund may be used, subject to
19 appropriation, by the State Board of Education for the
20 purposes of subsection (j).

21 (j) Subject to appropriation, the State Superintendent of
22 Education may provide a grant to a school district, charter
23 school, or non-public, non-sectarian elementary or secondary
24 school to support its anti-bullying programming. Grants may be
25 awarded from the Illinois Bullying and Cyberbullying
26 Prevention Fund. School districts, charter schools, and

1 non-public, non-sectarian elementary or secondary schools that
2 are not in compliance with subsection (f) are not eligible to
3 receive a grant from the Illinois Bullying and Cyberbullying
4 Prevention Fund.

5 (Source: P.A. 103-47, eff. 6-9-23; 104-338, eff. 7-1-26;
6 104-391, eff. 8-15-25; revised 9-24-25.)

7 (105 ILCS 5/22-112 new)

8 Sec. 22-112. Student suicide investigation and
9 accountability.

10 (a) As used in this Section:

11 "Bullying" has the meaning given to that term in Section
12 22-110.

13 "Educational environment" includes school property,
14 school-sponsored activities, school transportation, and
15 electronic or online activity that substantially interferes
16 with a student's educational experience.

17 "Harassment" means any unwelcome conduct, whether verbal,
18 physical, electronic, or written, that is based on a student's
19 actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin,
20 ancestry, age, sex, marital status, order of protection
21 status, disability, military status, sexual orientation,
22 pregnancy, or unfavorable discharge from military service and
23 that has the purpose or effect of substantially interfering
24 with a student's educational performance or creating an
25 intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment.

1 (b) In the event of the death by suicide of a student
2 enrolled in a school district, the school district shall
3 initiate a complete and transparent investigation to determine
4 whether bullying or harassment related to the educational
5 environment played a contributing role. The investigation
6 shall be initiated no later than 10 school days after the
7 school district becomes aware of the death.

8 (c) The investigation shall include, but is not limited
9 to:

10 (1) a review of bullying, harassment, discipline,
11 attendance, counseling, and incident records concerning
12 the student;

13 (2) interviews with relevant administrators, teachers,
14 counselors, staff, and, if appropriate, students;

15 (3) a review of complaints or reports made by the
16 student or the student's parent or guardian;

17 (4) an assessment of the school district's compliance
18 with its policy on bullying under Section 22-110; and

19 (5) identification of any failures to intervene or
20 enforce existing policies.

21 Employees of the school district shall fully cooperate
22 with the investigation.

23 Relevant records shall be preserved and may not be
24 destroyed, altered, or withheld during the investigation.

25 (d) Upon completion of an investigation under subsection
26 (b), the school district shall prepare a written investigative

1 report summarizing its findings, conclusions, and recommended
2 corrective actions. The report shall be provided to:

3 (1) the deceased student's parent or guardian, subject
4 to applicable privacy laws; and

5 (2) the State Board of Education.

6 A redacted version of the report, removing personally
7 identifiable student information, shall be made available to
8 the public upon request.

9 The State Board of Education may review the report for
10 compliance with this Section and may require a corrective
11 action plan or an additional review if deficiencies are
12 identified.

13 Section 95. No acceleration or delay. Where this Act makes
14 changes in a statute that is represented in this Act by text
15 that is not yet or no longer in effect (for example, a Section
16 represented by multiple versions), the use of that text does
17 not accelerate or delay the taking effect of (i) the changes
18 made by this Act or (ii) provisions derived from any other
19 Public Act.