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Legislative Report

Antibullying Programming

and Projected Expenditures

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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION ANTIBULLYING PROGRAMMING

The negative impacts on learning that result from bullying that occurs at school are well documented. The proliferation of social media and the accompanying potential for communication with anyone, anytime anywhere has added to the complexity of preventing and intervening to stop bullying behaviors.

Iowa has been a national leader in bullying prevention and intervention since 2004, three years before the passage of the Harassment Bullying Prohibited Law of 2007 (Iowa Code 280.28). Youth Leadership Teams representing Davenport Community School and Marcus-Meriden-Cleghorn Community School District have been invited to present at national forums and the former consultant for Bullying Prevention served in a national advisory capacity for the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program and provided testimony for a hearing convened by Iowa Senator Harkin.

Following are the efforts that have been supported by the Department of Education:

- Provided training that resulted in national certification in Olweus Bullying Prevention Programming (OBPP) for two consultants in each of the area education agencies;
- Commissioned and trained Olweus Bullying Prevention Program Trainers statewide to serve 20 Iowa Safe and Supportive Schools (IS³) grant-funded schools and provide consultation and support for additional twenty-seven high schools not selected for funding;
- Provided trainers with ongoing professional development, resources, and networking opportunities;
- Hosted webinars focusing on bullying prevention and intervention specific to cyberbullying, best practices in bullying, and engaging the community in efforts to address bullying;
- Developed and provided online resources on the Department of Education website;
- Provided training for over 400 Iowa educators in intake and investigation of reports of bullying incidents;
- Partnered with The Iowa Pride Network and their Safe School Certification Team to audit components of the Iowa Harassment Bullying Prohibited Law of 2007 for each of the IS³ schools and to certify grant schools that implemented best practices; and
- Launched a bullying/harassment data collection system for Iowa schools. This system collects incident report data from all districts in the state and provides more specific data around types of bullying occurring, locations of bullying incidents, number of students involved in bullying, whether reports are founded or unfounded, and the kinds of consequences applied in bullying incidents.

In addition to prevention work at the Department of Education, consultants take phone calls on a very frequent basis from parents who feel their concerns around bullying have not been addressed at the local level.

OLWEUS BULLYING PREVENTION PROGRAM

Olweus Bullying Prevention Program (OBPP) is a comprehensive, school-wide program designed and evaluated for use in elementary, middle, junior high, and high schools. The program's goals are to reduce and prevent bullying behaviors among school children and to improve peer relations at school. OBPP defines and assesses bullying in a manner that is consistent with Iowa Code 280.28.

Research demonstrates that the program significantly reduces children's self-reported experience with bullying, (including experiences as the target of bullying and experiences as the individual engaged in the bullying behavior), improves the social climate of classrooms, and reduces related antisocial behaviors, such as vandalism and truancy.

The OBPP framework includes specific programmatic interventions at the school-wide, classroom and individual levels. As such, it is an example of a multi-tiered system of supports. In addition to the research that supports the effectiveness of the program, OBPP also incorporates all of the following best practice elements recommended by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on its website, www.stopbullying.gov :

- Assess Bullying
- Engage Parents and Youth
- Create Policies and Rules
- Build a Safe Environment
- Educate Students and School Staff

IOWA SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE SCHOOLS FEDERAL GRANT

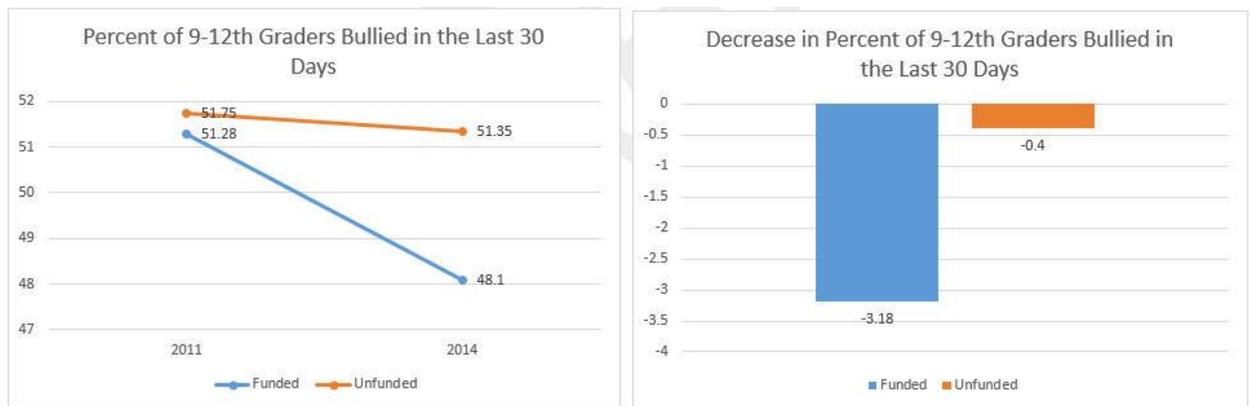
In 2010, Iowa was one of eleven states to receive a Safe and Supportive Schools (IS³) grant. The goals of the grant were to: 1) develop a measurement system for School Safety, Student Engagement and the overall Learning Environment, and 2) implement strategies to improve those three areas. Twenty-one high schools, that demonstrated the greatest need based on the measurement system, were selected to receive funding and participate in the grant. Schools that participated in the grant, participated in an audit of their policies, formed adult and student leadership teams to address school culture and climate, and participated in a continuous improvement process to analyze data and to implement a variety of strategies to improve school safety, student engagement, and the overall learning environment.

The IS³ grant provided resources to support a full-time consultant to:

- provide leadership to statewide efforts to reduce bullying;
- coordinate the efforts of Olweus bullying prevention trainers;

- plan and deliver statewide professional development in the areas of bullying prevention and investigation of bullying incidents; and
- respond to constituent calls about bullying.

IS³ Outcomes: From spring 2011 to spring 2014, the percent of students in the twenty-one IS³ grant schools who reported being bullied in the last 30 days decreased from 51.28 percent to 48.1 percent, a 3.18 percent decrease. This is nearly eight times the decrease of the high schools that participated in the IS³ survey, but did not receive funding (0.4 percent decrease).



While schools that participated in the IS³ made gains in decreasing students' perceptions of being bullied, this is not the case statewide. The items that are part of the IS³ survey are also included in the statewide Iowa Youth Survey Bullying Construct. Data from all schools that participated in the Iowa Youth Survey in 2012, reveals that the rate of bullying is increasing. Statewide, students who responded unfavorably to items about bullying behavior increased from 51.6 percent in 2005 to 56.8 percent in 2012. The 2014 Iowa Youth Survey data is not yet available.

CURRENT RESOURCES TO SUPPORT BULLYING PREVENTION PROGRAMMING

Prior to 2009, Iowa received federal formula funding through Title IV, Part A, Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities. The Department of Education was allocated funds to provide administrative support and professional development to schools and each school district received an allocation based on a funding formula. Funds could be used for data collection, evaluation, and evidence-based practices that reduced drug and/or violence and included strategies to address bullying. The Department of Education used these funds to contract with a private entity to coordinate bullying prevention/intervention training and support to schools.

Federal formula funding from Title IV Part A, Safe and Drug Free Schools was eliminated in 2009. Funds from the Iowa Safe and Supportive Schools grant will end September 30, 2015. There are currently no state or federal funds dedicated to support Iowa Code 280.28, Iowa's Harassment and Bullying Prohibited law.

RESOURCES NEEDED TO SUSTAIN IOWA'S BULLYING PREVENTION PROGRAMMING

The following chart describes the functions that are considered essential to comply with Iowa Code, respond to constituent concerns, establish statewide leadership for a coordinated and integrated bullying prevention effort, and to deliver quality professional development opportunities to schools. The chart provides options for three different levels of support to schools: 1) those functions that would provide minimal compliance and support to schools, 2) a more adequate level of support that would include bullying prevention professional development, and 3) components for high quality support for professional development that would reach all schools.

Resources Needed to Support Bullying Prevention Programming

Functions	Resources	Status FY15	Status FY16
Minimum Level of Support			
Respond to constituent calls pertaining to bullying	Expertise and staff time	Assigned to existing School Improvement Consultants	Assigned to existing Consultants
Bullying Investigator Training offered once in the fall and again in spring	Contractual Venue Costs \$8,000/event x 2 events = \$16,000 + Trainer \$1,000/event x 2 = 2,000 \$18,000	IS ³ Grant provides funding for two training events	No funding
Development and maintenance of statewide bullying database to collect statewide data from all districts.	.5 FTE Data Support Further development of data system, training and maintenance \$40,000	Portioned out to multiple staff	No funding

Resources Needed to Support Bullying Prevention Programming (Continued)

Functions	Resources	Status FY15	Status FY16
Adequate Support (also includes all functions listed above)			
Leadership for statewide efforts to reduce bullying and to ensure compliance with 280.28. Coordination of all functions described in this table.	1.0 FTE Consultant \$100,000	IS ³ Grant, position currently not filled	No Funding
Coordination of statewide Olweus bullying prevention trainers that includes two annual networking meetings	Training materials, general supplies, and food for all day meeting \$2,000	No networking meetings planned	No funding
High Level Support for Statewide Professional Development (also includes all functions listed above)			
NEW ACTIVITY Web-based Bullying Prevention Training offered through AEA Online	1.0 FTE Programmer \$100,000 + Content Development 15 days @ \$1,500/day \$22,500 + AEA Server Space \$125,000 = \$247,500	Not developed No Funding	Not developed No Funding
NEW ACTIVITY Phase 1 Statewide Bullying Investigation Training offered in four regions to all schools.	Phase 1 4 regional, 2-day trainings -\$16,500 X 4 = \$66,000 + Phase 2	Not Developed No Funding	Not Developed No Funding

Phase 2 training sustained thereafter through two annual trainings to accommodate turnover	2 statewide trainings- \$16,500 X 2 =\$33,000 = \$99,000		
TOTAL	\$466,500		