



HF 2409 – Bullying Prevention Procedures and Training (LSB 5269HV)
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Fiscal Note Version – New

Description

House File 2409 requires all individuals applying for or renewing a license, certificate, authorization, or statement of recognition issued by the Board of Educational Examiners (BoEE) to complete training approved by the Department of Education (DE) on harassment and bullying prevention and response. This Bill also requires all individuals applying for or renewing an administrator license to complete training approved by the DE on implementation of school-wide policies and procedures for harassment and bullying identification, reporting, response, and prevention. Training is also required for individuals who are responsible for conducting investigations of complaints of incidents of harassment or bullying.

This Bill requires school districts and accredited nonpublic schools to notify all employees holding a license, certificate, authorization, or statement of recognition the availability of the required training. The State Board of Education is required to adopt rules for incorporating the training requirements into the standards for individual teacher professional development plans and individual administrator development plans.

The DE is required to coordinate and implement the State's efforts to prevent and respond to harassment and bullying as defined in Iowa Code section **280.28** and can enter into Iowa Code chapter **28E** agreements with the BoEE, Department of Human Rights, the Civil Rights Commission, and postsecondary institutions. The DE is required to do the following to prevent and respond to bullying and harassment:

- Assist schools in Iowa to implement Iowa Code section **280.28**, using research-based best practices.
- Develop or recommend qualified harassment and bullying prevention and response training programs.
- Provide assistance to school employees responsible for conducting investigations of complaints of incidents of harassment or bullying.
- Compare and analyze harassment and bullying incidence data reported by school districts and response data from the Iowa Youth Survey conducted by the Department of Public Health.

This Bill modifies the definition of “electronic” under Iowa Code section **280.28** to include any other electronic communication, site, device, or means to the definition and includes social networking sites as part of the term “internet-based communications.”

Antiharassment and antibullying policies must include a procedure for the prompt notification of the parents or guardians of all students directly involved in a reported incident of harassment or bullying. The procedure may include an exception to the notification requirement if a school official reasonably believes notification will subject a student to abuse or neglect.

This Bill grants school officials the authority to investigate and impose school discipline or take other action in cases of alleged incidents of harassment or bullying, including cyberbullying, that occur outside of school, off of school property, or away from school functions if certain conditions are met.

Assumptions

- Development of harassment and bullying prevention and response training will be done by the Area Education Agencies (AEAs) at a cost of \$22,500.
- The training materials will be made available online and will be hosted and maintained in the AEA system. Additional server space and support for costs related to hosting online training will cost \$125,000 per year.
- Programming support to create and maintain the training materials will require an additional FTE position housed within the AEA system at an annual cost of \$75,000 for salary and benefits.
- Currently, the AEA system offers other mandatory training at a cost of \$25 per licensee. The harassment and bullying prevention and response training will be paid by the licensee if the school districts do not use the subscription based services for trainings offered through the AEAs.
- In the first year, four regional “investigation of bullying and harassment complaints” trainings will be conducted with a minimum of two attendees from each school district. The following year and subsequent years, two statewide investigation trainings will be offered to sustain the number of district staff trained. The cost of each training session is estimated to be \$16,500.
- Teacher time spent in training and other related expenses will be paid for by using current funding levels.

Fiscal Impact

[HF 2409](#) will increase General Fund expenditures for the Area Education Agency system by \$288,500 and 1.0 FTE position in FY 2015 and \$255,500 and 1.0 FTE position for FY 2016 and subsequent fiscal years.

Sources

Department of Education
Area Education Agencies

/s/ Holly M. Lyons

March 4, 2014

The fiscal note for this bill was prepared pursuant to [Joint Rule 17](#) and the Iowa Code. Data used in developing this fiscal note is available from the Fiscal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency upon request.
