

Legislative Report Anti-Bullying Programming

January 15, 2024



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Legislative Authority

In September 2015, Governor Branstad signed Executive Order 86 related to bullying. Executive Order 86 established the Governor's Office of Bully Prevention to address the following:

- a. Training
- b. Reporting procedures
- c. Cyberbullying
- d. Data collection
- e. Varsity Interscholastic Athletic Participation

2023 Iowa Acts, chapter 111 (Senate File 560) requires the Department to submit a report to the General Assembly by January 15:

detailing the department's antibullying programming and current and projected expenditures for such programming for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023.

The Iowa Department of Education (Department) partners with the Patricia A. Tomson Center for Violence Prevention, formerly the Governor's Office for Bullying Prevention, to support and collaborate to ensure resources are maximized and used efficiently to meet the direction provided in the Executive Order.

Current Supports for Bullying Prevention

During the fiscal year 2023 (FY23) the Department engaged in the following related activities:

1. Supported the web-based Bullying/harassment Prevention and Intervention Foundations training that is shared through area education professional development online. This training includes the bullying definition, cyberbullying and other types of bullying, environmental conditions and role affiliation, law and policy, and the continuous improvement process. In FY23, 1,352 educators completed this training.
2. Supported bullying-related calls from school districts, parents, caregivers, students and AEAs through the Bureau of Learner Strategies and Supports and Bureau of School Improvement.
3. Supported web-based bullying intake and investigation training. Four hundred forty-eight (448) educators completed this training during FY23.
4. Continued implementation of the \$494,000 STOP School Violence, Prevention and Mental Health grant. The federal grant was awarded in October 2018 from the U.S. Department of Justice with the goals of training 168 school personnel in Mentors in Violence prevention (MVP) 540 school personnel in Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA), and over 3,500 youth trained as MVP student leaders. The grant was extended until March 31, 2023. During the FY23 grant extension period, 29 school personnel were trained in MVP, 22 school personnel in YMHFA, 110 school personnel in the Spectrum of Violence Prevention, and 27 individuals participated in the grant culminating event.
5. Awarded \$5,688,647 (out of \$5,988,079 total received) of Stronger Connections Grant funds to 44 school districts, including a charter school. The Stronger Connections Grant (SCG), which is a component of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act of 2022, was designed to provide students with safe and supportive learning opportunities and environments that are critical for their success. Funds were awarded through a competitive grant process to high-need K-12 public school districts as determined by the

State. The overall goal of the Stronger Connections grant is to help schools provide all students with safe and supportive learning opportunities and environments that are critical for their success by expanding access to mental health services and supports. These funds can be used to support school and community partnerships that pursue multifaceted solutions to more effectively prevent and respond to acts of bullying, violence, and hate that impact members of our school communities at both individual and systemic levels.

Supports and Expenditures for Bullying Prevention Programming

The following chart describes the function and expenditures for FY23.

Function	Resource	Status
On-going support and dissemination of bullying prevention, intervention and investigation on-line trainings.	Federal or State Funds \$0	Ongoing
Awarded \$494,000 federal STOP School Violence Prevention and Mental Health grant in October 2018 from the U.S. Department of Justice, the grant partnered with 42 schools to train personnel and students in Mentors in Violence Prevention and Youth Mental Health First Aid over the four-year grant period.	Federal Grant Funds \$78,130	Grant Completion Date: March 31, 2023
Stronger Connections Grant: School District grant proposals included activities and/or goals that promote physical fitness, provide professional development for educators in support of providing safe and supportive learning environments, support the implementation or enhancement of school-wide Multi-Tiered Systems of Supports, increase parent and family engagement, and promote safety and violence prevention.	State Activities (4%) \$239,552 Administration (1%) \$59,880 Allocated to Districts (95%) \$5,688,676	Grant Expiration: September 30, 2026.