

Legislative Report

Anti-Bullying/Anti-Harassment Report 2025

IOWA | Department of Education



State of Iowa
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Legislative Authority

This report is submitted pursuant to 2025 Iowa Acts, chapter 157 (Senate File 647): By January 15, 2026, the department shall submit a written report to the general assembly detailing the department's antibullying programming and current and projected expenditures for such programming for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025.

Anti-Bullying/Harassment Support

During Fiscal Year (FY) 2025, the Iowa Department of Education (Department) has engaged in the following related activities:

1. Supported the web-based “Bullying/Harassment Prevention and Intervention Foundations” training that is shared through area education agency professional development online (AEA PD Online). This training explains the definition of bullying, offers an overview of cyberbullying and other forms of bullying, discusses environmental conditions and role affiliations that lead to bullying, reviews related laws and policies and covers the continuous improvement process for anti-bullying measures. In FY25, 1,461 educators completed this training.
2. Supported bullying-related calls from school districts, parents, caregivers, students and AEAs through the Department’s Bureau of Academics and Learner Supports, Bureau of School Improvement and the Special Education Call Cadre.
3. Supported web-based “Bullying Intake and Investigation” training that is shared through AEA PD Online. During FY25, 439 educators completed this training.
4. With the pending change in Iowa’s Bullying/Harassment Law, Iowa Code 280.28, which was modified with House File 865 for implementation as of July 1, 2025, the Department offered procedural and fillable documents to reflect the changes in the law, including:
 - [Bullying/Harassment Department of Education webpage](#)
 - Added a new section on the webpage regarding bullying/harassment of students with disabilities.
 - [Bullying and Harassment in Iowa Schools: Responsibilities and Investigation Process](#)
 - [Complaint Form](#)
 - [Sample Safety Plan](#)
 - [Sample Witness Disclosure Form](#)
 - [Sample Disposition of Complaint Form](#)
5. The Department is in the process of creating a new module hosted by AEA Learning Online based on the [Responsibilities and Investigation Process](#) document. It will emphasize:
 - The refined language of “repeated and targeted”
 - The expectation that all incidents are addressed
 - Ways to document incidents, reports and complaints to ensure records are kept that would provide evidence of repeated incidents toward students and capture how the school responded
 - Encouragement to utilize the Disposition of Complaint Form as a final communication on the determination of the investigation
 - Required timelines and strategies for communication with parents/guardians

- Other state and federal laws that may need immediate response based on the type of incident, including the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the Civil Rights Act and [Iowa Code 279.65A](#), the 2023 law requiring schools to have policies for different grade levels that describe how they may discipline a student for making a threat of violence or causing an incident of violence that results in injury or property damage or assault
6. School districts and accredited nonpublic schools are required to report all founded bullying and harassment incidents (Iowa Code section 280.28(7)). For school districts with fewer than 10 founded incidents, the data are reported as “<10” or as zero. Among the 329 school districts and charter schools reporting in BEDS, 23 districts (7%) accounted for the statewide total of 902 founded incidents. Of the remaining districts reporting, 29% submitted fewer than 10 incidents and 64% of districts did not report any founded incidents. Nonpublic schools reported an additional 43 founded incidents.
 - While the majority of the incidents were reported as “other,” the remaining top-five types of bullying from those reported included: physical attributes, sex, race, physical/mental abilities and sexual orientation.
 7. Of those reported, the below methods of bullying/harassment were documented in BEDS (one instance can be reported under more than one category).
 - Verbal: 59%
 - Electronic: 20%
 - Physical: 20%
 - Social/Relational: 10%
 - Written: 5%
 - Other: 3%