

ASSEMBLY, No. 5320

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JANUARY 29, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman P. CHRISTOPHER TULLY

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

Assemblywoman LISA SWAIN

District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Requires anti-bullying specialist to annually submit self-assessment on school's effort to implement "Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act" directly to DOE.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning reporting of certain acts by school employees
2 and amending P.L.1982, c.163.

3

4 BE IT ENACTED by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. Section 1 of P.L.1982, c.163 (C.18A:17-46) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 1. Any school employee observing or having direct knowledge
10 from a participant or victim of an act of violence shall, in
11 accordance with standards established by the commissioner, file a
12 report describing the incident to the school principal in a manner
13 prescribed by the commissioner, and copy of same shall be
14 forwarded to the district superintendent.

15 The principal shall notify the district superintendent of schools
16 of the action taken regarding the incident. Two times each school
17 year, between September 1 and January 1 and between January 1
18 and June 30, at a public hearing, the superintendent of schools shall
19 report to the board of education all acts of violence, vandalism, and
20 harassment, intimidation, or bullying which occurred during the
21 previous reporting period. The report shall include the number of
22 reports of harassment, intimidation, or bullying, the status of all
23 investigations, the nature of the bullying based on one of the
24 protected categories identified in section 2 of P.L.2002, c.83
25 (C.18A:37-14), the names of the investigators, the type and nature
26 of any discipline imposed on any student engaged in harassment,
27 intimidation, or bullying, and any other measures imposed, training
28 conducted, or programs implemented, to reduce harassment,
29 intimidation, or bullying. The information shall also be reported
30 once during each reporting period to the Department of Education.
31 The report must include data broken down by the enumerated
32 categories as listed in section 2 of P.L.2002, c.83 (C.18A:37-14),
33 and data broken down by each school in the district, in addition to
34 district-wide data. It shall be a violation to improperly release any
35 confidential information not authorized by federal or State law for
36 public release.

37 The report shall be used to grade each school for the purpose of
38 assessing its effort to implement policies and programs consistent
39 with the provisions of P.L.2002, c.83 (C.18A:37-13 et seq.). The
40 district shall receive a grade determined by averaging the grades of
41 all the schools in the district. The commissioner shall promulgate
42 guidelines for a program to grade schools for the purposes of this
43 section. A school's anti-bullying specialist shall annually submit a
44 self-assessment evaluating the school's efforts to implement the
45 "Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act," P.L.2002, c.82 (C.18A:37-13 et

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 seq.), as amended and supplemented by P.L.2010, c.122 (C.18A:37-
2 13.1 et al.), directly to the Department of Education. An anti-
3 bullying specialist shall not be required to submit the self-
4 assessment prepared pursuant to this section to any school
5 administrator in the school district or to the local board of education
6 for approval prior to submitting the self-assessment to the
7 department.

8 The grade received by a school and the district shall be posted on
9 the homepage of the school's website. The grade for the district and
10 each school of the district shall be posted on the homepage of the
11 district's website. A link to the report shall be available on the
12 district's website. The information shall be posted on the websites
13 within 10 days of the receipt of a grade by the school and district.

14 Verification of the reports on violence, vandalism, and
15 harassment, intimidation, or bullying shall be part of the State's
16 monitoring of the school district, and the State Board of Education
17 shall adopt regulations that impose a penalty on a school employee
18 who knowingly falsifies the report. A board of education shall
19 provide ongoing staff training, in cooperation with the Department
20 of Education, in fulfilling the reporting requirements pursuant to
21 this section. The majority representative of the school employees
22 shall have access monthly to the number and disposition of all
23 reported acts of school violence, vandalism, and harassment,
24 intimidation, or bullying.

25 (cf: P.L.2010, c.122, s.7)

26
27 2. This act shall take effect immediately and shall first apply to
28 the first full school year following the date of enactment.

31 STATEMENT

32
33 This bill modifies the process by which a school and school
34 district report on efforts to implement the "Anti-Bullying Bill of
35 Rights Act."

36 Under current law, the Department of Education grades each
37 public school in the State on its efforts to implement the "Anti-
38 Bullying Bill of Rights Act." The department determines each
39 grade based, in part, on a self-assessment completed by each school.
40 The process for submitting the self-assessment is established under
41 guidelines that have been developed by the Commissioner of
42 Education. Under these guidelines, once a school safety team
43 completes the self-assessment, the chief school administrator
44 reviews and presents the self-assessment to the local board of
45 education at a public meeting for approval. Once approved by the
46 board of education, the chief school administrator submits the
47 finalized self-assessment to the department.

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1 Under this bill, a school’s anti-bullying specialist will submit the
2 self-assessment evaluating the school’s efforts to implement the
3 “Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act” directly to the department
4 without first submitting the self-assessment to any school
5 administrator in the district or the local board of education for
6 approval.