

## [Act 1029](#) - Updates to the Anti-bullying law

### **Professional Development:**

- Adds to training requirements for school board members to be informed of school discipline and safety policies.
- Adds a requirement of 2 hrs. of PD to be included in the 20-21 school year and every 4th year after on bullying prevention
- ADE must develop a guidance document for guardians, parents, and school districts on obligation for schools with regard to bullying, best practices for bullying prevention, and a clear definition of bullying and examples. The document will be provided as part of the required PD.

### **School Procedures:**

- Adds "cyberbullying" to definition of bullying.
  - a. New definition: *"Cyberbullying" means any form of communication by electronic act that is sent with the purpose to: (1) Harass, intimidate, humiliate, ridicule, defame, or threaten a student, public school employee, or person with whom the other student or public school employee is associated; or (2) Incite violence to a student, public school employee, or person with whom the other student or public school employee is associated.*
  - b. Includes cyberbullying even if it did not originate on campus or with school equipment if it targets students or staff with the malicious intent to disrupt school, or has a high likelihood of doing so.
- If an incident of bullying occurs during school hours, a principal or their designee **shall** as soon as reasonably practical:
  - a. Report to the parent of victim the incident that their child is the victim in a credible report of bullying and prepare a written report of the alleged incident.
  - b. Promptly investigate - The investigation **shall** be completed as soon as possible **but not later than five (5) school days** from the date of the written report of the alleged incident of bullying.
  - c. Notify the parent of the student responsible for the bullying incident upon completion of investigation and inform of consequences of continued bullying incidents
- Parent whose child is involved in alleged incident has the right to the following information within 5 days of the completion of the investigation:
  - a. To know a credible report of bullying exists
  - b. Whether the report was found to be true by investigation
  - c. Whether action was taken as a result of true findings
  - d. Information regarding continued reporting of bullying incidents
- Written Record Requirements:
  - a. **Shall** include a detailed description of the alleged incident of bullying, including without limitation **a detailed summary of the statements from all material witnesses to the alleged incident of bullying**

- b. Discuss, as appropriate, the availability of counseling and other intervention services with students involved in the incident of bullying.

**Annual Reporting:**

- Superintendent must report to the school board once a year without limitation the number of bullying incidents reported and actions taken.

**School Board Policy Additions:**

- Policy must describe steps for reporting an alleged incident and the steps the school will take to address each reported incident
- Bullying policy and steps must be included in all publications of the district and school that put forth rules, including the student handbook.
- Policies must be re-evaluated annually.