

School Safety & Bullying

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Areas Covered

- **New Wyoming Law**
- **Wyoming Anonymous Tip Line**
- **Best Practices**

Note: Parent Survey – 52% say Bullying is most urgent safety concern

Bully Police

www.bullypolice.org/grade.html

- **Graded the new Wyoming Law with an A++**
- **Wyoming is the only state in the mountain west region that received such a grade**

Definitions W.S. 21-4-312

- **“Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying” =**
- **Any intentional gesture, any intentional electronic communication or any intentional written, verbal or physical act initiated, occurring, or received at school that a reasonable person under the circumstances should know will have the effect of:**

Definitions W.S. 21-4-312

- a. Harming a student physically or emotionally, damaging a student's property or placing a student in reasonable fear of personal harm or property damage**

Definitions W.S. 21-4-312

b. Insulting or demeaning a student or group of students causing substantial disruption in, or substantial interference with, the orderly operation of the school

Definitions W.S. 21-4-312

- c. Creating an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment... through sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive behavior**

General Directives W.S. 21-4-313

- **No person shall engage in harassment, intimidation, or bullying**
- **No person shall engage in reprisal or retaliation against a victim, witness, or person who reports information about an act of harassment, intimidation, or bullying**

Implementation W.S. 21-4-314

What Each District Policy Shall Contain

- 1. A statement prohibiting harassment, intimidation, or bullying of a student**
- 2. A definition of “harassment, Intimidation, or bullying” which includes at a minimum the definition provided in W.S. 21-4-312 (a) (i)**

Implementation W.S. 21-4-314

Policy Content Continued

- 3. Consequences and Remedial Actions**
- 4. Procedures for Reporting/Documenting**
- 5. Procedures for Reporting Anonymously**
- 6. Procedures for Prompt Investigation**
- 7. Prevent Reprisal**
- 8. Consequences for False Accusation**
- 9. Process for Discussion with Students**
- 10. How the Policy is to be Publicized**

W.S. 21-4-314 Continued

Where to Publish the Policy

- 1. Each school board shall include the policy in a “publication of the comprehensive rules, procedures and standards of conduct...””**
- 2. Each school board shall include the policy in each school’s student handbook**

W.S. 21-4-314 Continued

Where to Incorporate Information

Information about the policy shall be:

- 1. Incorporated into each district's professional development program**
- 2. Shall be “provided to volunteers and other noncertified employees of the district who have significant contact with students”**

Notes / Recommendations:

- 1. Expect bully policies to be revised and changed over time**
- 2. Does everything work? Note places in your policies that could stand some change**
- 3. The site www.k12.wy.us can be accessed for information on model policies and program standards – go to “Bullying Policies” under the “New Information” category**

Specific District Bully Prevention Programs and Other Initiatives:

1. Entirely up to the district

2. May involve:

School staff

Students

Administrators

Volunteers

Parents

Law enforcement

Community members

Required Teacher Preparation Program Standards

1. Mandate to WDE from Legislature
2. Standards must be:

Simple

Direct

Efficient

Doable

Respect District's Local Control

No Real Bureaucracy

Required Teacher Preparation Program Standards (Summary):

- 1. Most recent edition on web for easy staff review**
- 2. Continuing education credits earned shall be at the current rate**
- 3. Provide staff with effective anti-bully training each year that will align with district goals on student safety and maximize teacher effectiveness**
- 4. Partner with law enforcement or School Resource Officers (SROs) regarding training and violence prevention**

WeTip

Statewide Anonymous Tip Line

- **Deterrent to Crime**
- **Crime Solving Tool**
- **Provided for Wyoming Students**
- **Calls are Taken 24-7**
- **Call Takers are Trained**
- **Seventy Three Tips Since Program Started**

Student Advantages

- **Schools are Safer when Students Warn Others of Danger**
- **Climate is More Positive**
- **Crime is Reduced**
- **More Options are Available**
- **Injury can be Avoided**
- **Lives can be Saved**

Additional Benefits

- **Rewards are Available in the Event of Conviction**
- **Up to \$1,000 Payment**
- **Three-Part Code is Used to Collect Reward at Nearest Post Office
Anonymity is Maintained**

Critical Components

- 1. Posters and Brochures Must be Available in School**
- 2. Staff and Students Must Know the Number 1-800-78-CRIME**
- 3. Students Must be Willing to Use it**

Track Record

- **Since the inception of WeTip in 1972, there never has been one single breach of anonymity of any caller or tipster**
- **WeTip Exists in All 50 States**

Operative Best Practices

- **Programs are:**

- 1. Proven Over Time**

- 2. If implemented with Fidelity, can Produce Significant Leaps in Student Performance and Reductions in Discipline Referrals**

- 3. Are Reasonably Cost Effective**

Mentoring

- 1. Supplement guidance when not present in the home**
- 2. Proven to be the Single Largest Influence in Students Chance for Success**
- 3. Students with Quality Mentor 1/2 less likely to start drugs, 1/3 less likely to start drinking**

Restorative Practices

1. Students less likely to harm those with whom they have built connectivity
2. Fights go way down, class disturbances go way down
3. High discipline + high nurturing
4. Administration works with students, not doing things to students

Peer to Peer Mediation

- 1. Reduces load on Administrators**
- 2. Utilizes Student Leadership**
- 3. Elevates Student Climate**
- 4. Builds Students Life-Long Problem Solving Skills**
- 5. Increases student academic performance**

Anti-Violence Programs

1. Olweus

- *Research based

- *Significant increases in social climate

- *Reductions in anti-social behavior

2. Safe School Ambassadors Program

- *Utilizes Student Leadership

- *Discipline Referrals can be cut 75%

- *Extends eyes and ears of teachers

For More Information, Contact:

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