

HOUSE BILL No. 1405

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 20-33-8; IC 20-34-6-3.

Synopsis: Student bullying and abusive behavior. Revises the definition of "bullying". Requires each public school, including a charter school, to track, monitor, and analyze specified aspects of bullying, and provides that a parent of a student or a student, if the student is an emancipated minor, may submit a grievance to the school for a violation of this requirement. Requires each school corporation and charter school to: (1) document and track all acts of bullying and abusive behavior for analysis; (2) prepare and implement interventions to deter and prevent bullying; and (3) compile, prepare, and submit an annual report beginning July 1, 2026, to the department of education, the state board of education, and the legislative council summarizing the information collected. Requires the state board of education to review the report and provide recommendations to certain schools to reduce the frequency of acts of bullying or abusive behavior.

Effective: July 1, 2025.

DeVon

January 13, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on Education.



First Regular Session of the 124th General Assembly (2025)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2024 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

HOUSE BILL No. 1405



A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning education.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 20-33-8-0.2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.285-2013,
2 SECTION 5, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
3 JULY 1, 2025]: Sec. 0.2. (a) As used in this chapter, "bullying" means
4 overt, unwanted ~~repeated~~ acts or gestures, including verbal or written
5 communications or images transmitted in any manner (including
6 digitally or electronically), physical acts committed, aggression, or any
7 other behaviors, that are committed by a student or group of students
8 against another student with the intent to harass, ridicule, humiliate,
9 intimidate, or harm the targeted student and create for the targeted
10 student an objectively hostile school environment that:
11 (1) places the targeted student in reasonable fear of harm to the
12 targeted student's person or property;
13 (2) has a substantially detrimental effect on the targeted student's
14 physical or mental health;
15 (3) has the effect of substantially interfering with the targeted
16 student's academic performance; or
17 (4) has the effect of substantially interfering with the targeted



- 1 student's ability to participate in or benefit from the services,
 2 activities, and privileges provided by the school.
- 3 (b) The term may not be interpreted to impose any burden or
 4 sanction on, or include in the definition of the term, the following:
- 5 (1) Participating in a religious event.
 6 (2) Acting in an emergency involving the protection of a person
 7 or property from an imminent threat of serious bodily injury or
 8 substantial danger.
 9 (3) Participating in an activity consisting of the exercise of a
 10 student's rights protected under the First Amendment to the
 11 United States Constitution or Article I, Section 31 of the
 12 Constitution of the State of Indiana, or both.
 13 (4) Participating in an activity conducted by a nonprofit or
 14 governmental entity that provides recreation, education, training,
 15 or other care under the supervision of one (1) or more adults.
 16 (5) Participating in an activity undertaken at the prior written
 17 direction of the student's parent.
 18 (6) Engaging in interstate or international travel from a location
 19 outside Indiana to another location outside Indiana.
- 20 SECTION 2. IC 20-33-8-36 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
 21 AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY
 22 1, 2025]: **Sec. 36. (a) Each public school, including a charter school,**
 23 **shall:**
- 24 (1) track the acts of bullying and abusive behaviors against a
 25 victim;
 26 (2) provide and monitor supports for the victim;
 27 (3) track the acts of an alleged perpetrator who is exhibiting
 28 bullying or abusive behaviors, including written, verbal,
 29 physical, and sexual forms of abusive behavior and
 30 cyberbullying (as defined in IC 20-19-3-11.5(a)); and
 31 (4) analyze the information collected under subdivisions (1)
 32 and (3) to help determine and provide an appropriate
 33 intervention plan that must be provided to another public
 34 school if the alleged perpetrator transfers to the other public
 35 school.
- 36 (b) A parent of a student or a student, if the student is an
 37 emancipated minor, may submit a grievance to the public school or
 38 charter school that the student attends for a violation of subsection
 39 (a).
- 40 (c) Each public school, including a charter school, shall establish
 41 and maintain a procedure for the resolution of a grievance under
 42 this section.



1 SECTION 3. IC 20-34-6-3 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
2 AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY
3 1, 2025]: **Sec. 3. (a) Each school corporation and charter school**
4 **shall, for each school year, do the following:**

5 **(1) Document and track all acts of bullying and abusive**
6 **behaviors regarding:**

7 **(A) a victim of bullying; and**

8 **(B) an alleged perpetrator exhibiting bullying or abusive**
9 **behaviors, including written, verbal, physical, and sexual**
10 **forms of abusive behavior and cyberbullying (as defined in**
11 **IC 20-19-3-11.5(a)).**

12 **(2) Use the documentation and tracking described in**
13 **subdivision (1) to identify:**

14 **(A) the frequency and type of bullying or abusive**
15 **behaviors within the school corporation or charter school;**
16 **and**

17 **(B) students who may be at high risk of being a victim or**
18 **alleged perpetrator of bullying or abusive behavior.**

19 **(3) Prepare and implement targeted interventions to deter**
20 **and prevent bullying and abusive behavior with regard to**
21 **victims or alleged perpetrators.**

22 **(b) Beginning July 1, 2026, and not later than July 1 of each**
23 **year thereafter, each school corporation and charter school shall**
24 **do the following:**

25 **(1) Compile and prepare a report that summarizes the**
26 **information under subsection (a), including the prepared and**
27 **implemented interventions described in subsection (a)(3). The**
28 **report must provide summaries for each school corporation**
29 **and charter school, but may not contain any personal,**
30 **identifiable information of any individual.**

31 **(2) Submit the report described in subdivision (1) to the**
32 **following:**

33 **(A) The department.**

34 **(B) The state board.**

35 **(C) The legislative council in an electronic format under**
36 **IC 5-14-6.**

37 **(c) On or before August 1, 2026, and not later than August 1 of**
38 **each year thereafter, the state board shall:**

39 **(1) review the report described in subsection (b);**

40 **(2) identify school corporations or charter schools with the**
41 **most frequent acts of bullying or abusive behaviors; and**

42 **(3) provide tailored recommendations to each school**



1 **corporation or charter school identified under subdivision (2)**
2 **to reduce the frequency of acts of bullying or abusive**
3 **behaviors.**

