

SB 179 DAVID'S LAW

BULLYING LAW INCLUDES CYBERBULLYING



Bullying law definition remains, but **includes the definition and impact of cyberbullying** (including "intimate visual material" as assigned by Section 98B.001) when it materially and substantially disrupts the educational process or the orderly operation of a classroom or school. This also includes school property or school-sponsored events. **Transmission of cyberbullying may occur on OR OFF of school property.** School Boards shall establish a policy, including any necessary procedures, concerning bullying.

PARENT NOTIFICATION TIMELINE



A procedure is to be established to provide notice to a parent or guardian of the alleged victim **on or before the third business day** after the date the incident is reported.

STUDENT DISCIPLINE

A student may be placed in a disciplinary alternative education program provided by Section 37.008, if the student engages in bullying that **encourages a student to commit or attempt to commit suicide, incites violence against a student through group bullying, or releases or threatens to release intimate visual material without consent.**

ANONYMOUS REPORTING FOR STUDENTS



Each school may establish a district-wide policy to assist in prevention and mediation of bullying incidents, but must establish a reporting system (with available counseling options) to now include procedures **for a student to anonymously report** an incident of bullying. Districts do have the option of reporting bullying/cyberbullying incidents to school-based law enforcement and/or local municipalities after their investigations.

COUNSELING OPTIONS



Counselors may serve as **impartial, non-reporting resource for interpersonal conflicts and discord involving two or more students, including accusations of bullying under subsection 37.0832.** Available counseling options are to be made (according to district policy) for a student who is a victim of, or a witness to bullying, or who engages in bullying.

TEA WEBSITE WITH MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES COMING....



The agency (TEA) shall establish and maintain an Internet website to provide resources for school districts and open-enrollment charters regarding **working with students with mental health conditions.** This will include resources for grief-informed and trauma-informed practices and help with building skills for positive relations and responsible decision-making.

FOR COMPLETE TEXT OF THE LAW:
legiscan.com/TX/text/SB179/id/1624882