

United States: Anti-Bullying Laws and Policies

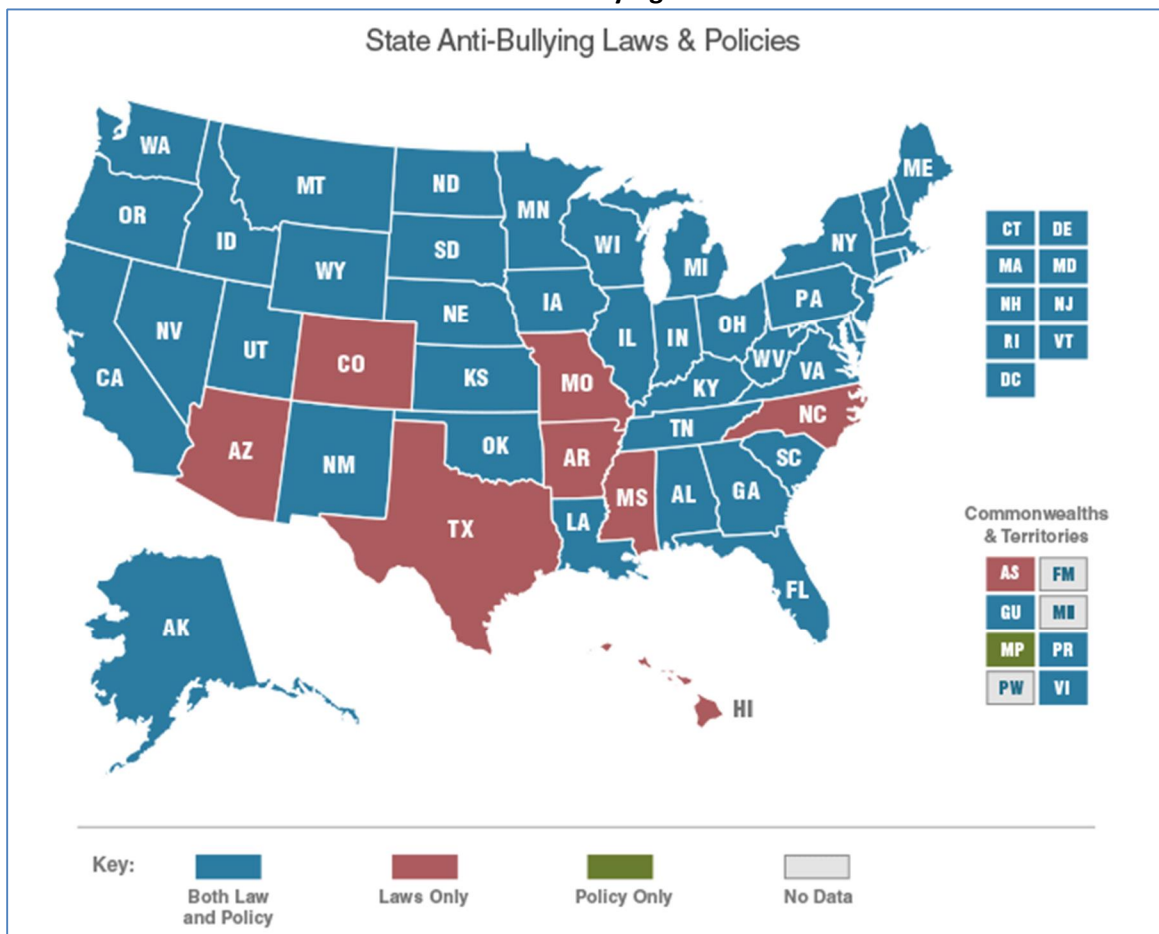
Are You Aware of the Legislation in *Your* State or Territory?

Bullying and cyberbullying are sensitive obstacles school administrators, staff, parents and students face on a daily basis. Although there is no federal legislation, every U.S. state and selected territory has some sort of law, policy, or both that address bullying. There are also many tools available to help alleviate instances of bullying and cyberbullying in schools.

Speak Up!, an Anonymous Communication Solution, provides schools with **anonymous two-way communication and reporting capabilities** so that students can report instances of bullying and cyberbullying without disclosing who they are – drastically reducing the likelihood of these instances going unnoticed.

In the map below, evaluate the current legislation in your state or territory. Is your school or district in compliance with the latest requirements? Check the next page to review more specific information about your state or territory.

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Source: stopbullying.gov, October 2018

Anti-Bullying Laws: State-by-State Summary

Summaries are intended for brief descriptive purposes only. Please refer to your local legislation for more details.
The states marked with an asterisk (*) require schools have a procedure in place for students to report bullying incidents - like Speak Up!

STATE	SUMMARY	STATE	SUMMARY
Alabama*	Each school shall develop plans or programs that encourage students to report incidents of harassment, violence, or threats of violence.	Alaska*	Beginning with the 2007 - 2008 school year, each school district shall report to the state incidents resulting in punishment for harassment, intimidation, or bullying.
Arizona*	Provisions require school districts to establish a confidential process that allows pupils to report incidents of harassment, intimidation or bullying to school officials.	Arkansas	School anti-bullying policies shall require that the person or persons who file a complaint will not be subject to retaliation or reprisal in any form.
California*	Schools must ensure a prompt and thorough investigation procedure of each incident in a confidential manner.	Colorado	Schools must implement procedures for immediate intervention and investigation in the event of reported or observed bullying.
Connecticut*	Schools must develop policies that enable students to anonymously report acts of bullying and enable parents/guardians to file reports of suspected bullying.	Delaware*	Schools must identify a procedure for a student and parent, guardian or relative to provide information on bullying activity.
District of Columbia*	A procedure for reporting bullying or retaliation for reporting an act of bullying, including for reporting bullying anonymously .	Florida*	Establish and Publicize a procedure for reporting bullying and harassment in-person or anonymously .
Georgia*	A procedure must be in place for a teacher or other school employee, student, parent or guardian, either anonymously or in such person's name, at such person's option, to report or otherwise provide information on bullying activity.	Hawaii	The board of education shall monitor the department of education for compliance with any department of education administrative rules or statutes governing bullying, cyberbullying, and harassment.
Idaho	Schools that receive federal funding are required to prohibit bullying, and any student who commits an act of bullying/harassment/intimidation is subject to investigation and discipline.	Illinois*	Illinois law requires that schools maintain records concerning any bullying incidents. Every school including private and charter schools must have an anti-bullying policy and reporting procedure.
Indiana*	Schools must establish reporting procedures related to bullying, and are encouraged to ensure that all school community members have the option to report bullying incidents anonymously .	Iowa*	The board of directors of a school district and the authorities in charge of each nonpublic school shall develop and maintain a system that collects harassment and bullying incident data.
Kansas*	Schools must implement a procedure for reporting an act of bullying, harassment or cyberbullying, and are encouraged to include a provision that permits a person to report them anonymously .	Kentucky*	Each local board of education shall be responsible for formulating a code which includes procedures for identifying, documenting and reporting incidents of bullying.
Louisiana*	Each local school board defines the procedure(s) for reporting an incident of harassment, intimidation or bullying to the appropriate school official(s).	Maine*	Bullying or suspected bullying must be reportable in person or in writing (including anonymously) to school personnel.
Maryland*	Local school systems will devise procedures in which the state approved Bullying, Harassment, and Intimidation Reporting forms may be submitted to school administration.	Massachusetts*	Each school's plan shall include clear procedures for students, staff, parents, guardians and others to report bullying. There must be a provision that allows reports of bullying or retaliation to be made anonymously .

STATE	SUMMARY	STATE	SUMMARY
Michigan*	All reports on instances of bullying and/or harassment must be recorded by the school for annual data review. Reports may be made anonymously .	Minnesota*	School principals will ensure the reporting policy and procedure is fairly and fully implemented and will serve as the primary person to address procedural matters.
Mississippi*	Requires each local school district to adopt procedures for reporting, investigating and addressing bullying and harassment behaviors.	Missouri*	Each district's anti-bullying policy shall require district employees to report any instance of bullying of which the employee has firsthand knowledge.
Montana*	Schools must establish a procedure for reporting an act of harassment, intimidation, or bullying.	Nebraska*	Each school district shall develop and adopt a policy concerning bullying prevention and education for all students. A procedure for reporting incidents of bullying and harassment is also required.
Nevada*	Each school district's policy must include requirements and methods for reporting harassment or intimidation.	New Hampshire*	Each school's policy shall contain, at a minimum, a procedure for a pupil or another person to report bullying or cyberbullying.
New Jersey*	The policy shall include a procedure for reporting an act of harassment, intimidation or bullying, including a provision that permits a person to report an act anonymously .	New Mexico*	Procedures must be in place for reporting incidents of bullying which ensure confidentiality to those making the report to the best of the school's ability.
New York*	Schools are required to take action when cyberbullying, harassment, or bullying occurs. Complaints shall always be documented, tracked, investigated, and remediated in accordance with district regulations and procedures.	North Carolina*	A procedure for reporting an act of bullying, cyber bullying or harassment is required, including a provision that permits a person to report such an act anonymously .
North Dakota*	Schools must establish procedures for reporting and documenting alleged acts of bullying, reprisal, or retaliation, and include procedures for anonymous reporting of such acts.	Ohio*	Policy will include a strategy for protecting a victim from new or additional harassment, intimidation, or bullying, and from retaliation following a report, including a means by which a person may report an incident anonymously .
Oklahoma*	Duties of the district Bullying Prevention Team include establishing a method for receiving anonymous reports of bullying incidents.	Oregon*	School districts must include a policy prohibiting an act of harassment, intimidation or bullying, including a provision that permits a person to report an act of harassment, intimidation or bullying anonymously .
Pennsylvania*	One appropriate school staff person shall be designated to receive reports of incidents of alleged bullying and cyberbullying. Reporting procedures must be reviewed with students once per academic year.	Rhode Island*	School safety plans must include strategies for improving communication among students and staff and reporting bullying or harassment. Student reports of bullying may be made anonymously .
South Carolina*	Policies must include procedures for reporting acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying, to include a provision for reporting anonymously .	South Dakota*	Each school district's policy must contain a procedure for reporting an act of bullying and cyberbullying, including provisions that permit a person to anonymously report such an act.
Tennessee*	School districts are encouraged to include a procedure for reporting an act of harassment, intimidation or bullying, including a provision that permits a person to report an act of harassment, intimidation or bullying anonymously .	Texas*	School districts should encourage bullying and harassment response to include procedures for parental notification, programs for students and staff, counseling to bullies and victims and protecting those who report bullying.
Utah*	Each school's policy shall include procedures allowing for reporting of bullying, hazing, or retaliation.	Vermont*	All anti-bullying plans should enable students to report incidents to teachers and school administrators.

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Virginia*	School division policy and procedures should include clear instructions for reporting, filing and investigating instances of bullying. Reporting may be anonymous , and students and parents should be encouraged to report any behaviors that they question.	Washington*	Individuals may file a report without revealing their identity. Schools are encouraged to develop other methods for receiving anonymous, unsigned reports .
West Virginia*	Each county school board shall include in its policies a procedure for reporting prohibited incidents.	Wisconsin*	Each anti-bullying policy requires a procedure for reporting bullying that permits reports to be made confidentially .
Wyoming*	Procedures for reporting and documenting acts of harassment, intimidation or bullying must be in place.		

Anti-Bullying Laws: Commonwealth/Territory Summary

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PROVINCE	SUMMARY	PROVINCE	SUMMARY
Guam*	Principals will develop a system for students to report acts of bullying, harassment, or intimidation – including an anonymous reporting system.	Puerto Rico*	There is a policy for the prevention and prohibition of bullying. Reports made anonymously must also be investigated.
N. Mariana Islands	The North Mariana Island prohibits and defines bullying behavior. There are procedures for students, students' families, and staff to report bullying. No written records are required.	Virgin Islands	There are requirements per the Board of Education for schools to adopt a policy to address bullying and cyberbullying.