

## **Tennessee Bullying, Harassment, Cyber-bullying Laws**

Title 49 Education  
Chapter 6 Elementary and Secondary Education  
Part 10 Curriculum Generally

Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-1014. Legislative findings -- Safety and civility.

Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-1015. Definitions for §§ 49-6-1014 -- 49-6-1019.

Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-1016. Development of policy regarding harassment, intimidation, bullying or cyber bullying.

Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-1017. Adoption of policy -- Transmission of copy of policy to the commissioner of education.

Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-1018. Reprisal or retaliation prohibited -- Reporting harassment, intimidation, bullying or cyber-bullying -- Immunity from damages.

Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-1019. Task forces, programs or other initiatives.

**To access Tennessee laws regarding bullying, harassment, and cyber-bullying, please visit: <http://www.lexisnexis.com/hottopic/tncode/>. Follow the links to Title 49 (Education), Chapter 6 (Elementary and Secondary Education), Part 10 (Curriculum Generally)**

**State of Tennessee**  
**PUBLIC CHAPTER NO. 992**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 2641**

**By Representatives Curtiss, Hardaway**

**Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 2556**

**By Senators Ketron, Ford, Burks**

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39 and Title 49, relative to harassment and bullying.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-17-308, is amended by deleting subdivision (a)(4) and substituting instead the following:

(4) Communicates with another person or transmits or displays an image without legitimate purpose with the intent that that the image is viewed by the victim by any method described in subdivision (a)(1) and the person:

(A) Maliciously intends the communication to be a threat of harm to the victim; and

(B) A reasonable person would perceive the communication to be a threat of harm.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-1016, is amended by adding the following new subsection:

(c)

(1) Each LEA shall, at the beginning of each school year, provide teachers and school counselors a copy of the policy along with information on the policy's implementation, bullying prevention and strategies to address bullying and harassment when it happens. In addition, each LEA shall provide training to teachers and counselors regarding the policy and appropriate procedures relative to implementation of the policy. The department of education shall provide guidelines for such training and provide recommendations of appropriate, available and free bullying and harassment prevention resources.

(2) Each LEA shall also:

(A) At the beginning of the school year, make available to students and parents information relative to bullying prevention programs to promote awareness of the harmful effects of bullying and to permit discussion with respect to prevention policies and strategies.

(B) Beginning August 1, 2013, and annually thereafter, prepare and provide to the department of education a report concerning the number of bullying cases brought to the attention of school officials during the preceding year and the manner in which they were resolved or the reason they are still pending.

(3) The department shall annually submit a report to the education committees of the House of the Representatives and the Senate updating membership on the number of bullying cases reported statewide, the number of LEAs implementing the provisions of this law and any other information relating to the subject of bullying and harassment as will be helpful to the committee in establishing policy in this area.

(d)

(1) The principal of a middle school, junior high school, or high school, or the principal's designee, shall investigate harassment, intimidation, bullying or cyber-bullying when a student reports to any principal, teacher or guidance counselor that physical harm or a threat of physical harm to such student's person or property has occurred.

(2) Following any investigation required by this part, the principal or such principal's designee report the findings, along with any disciplinary action taken, to the director of schools and the chair of the local board of education.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2012, the public welfare requiring it.