

# Senate Bill 587

Sponsored by Senator THATCHER; Senators FINDLEY, STEINER, Representatives HIEB, SCHARF, SMITH DB  
(Presession filed.)

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Requires school officials to provide parents or guardians of student who was subjected to act of harassment, intimidation or bullying or act of cyberbullying with notification that describes actions of school in responding to report of act of harassment, intimidation or bullying or act of cyberbullying.

Removes school official discretion to decide whether to notify parents or guardians about act of harassment, intimidation or bullying or act of cyberbullying.

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

1  
2 Relating to notification of school response to certain behaviors directed toward students; creating  
3 new provisions; and amending ORS 339.356.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 339.356 is amended to read:

6 339.356. (1) Each school district shall adopt a policy prohibiting harassment, intimidation or  
7 bullying and prohibiting cyberbullying. School districts shall develop the policy after consultation  
8 with parents, guardians, school employees, volunteers, students, administrators and community rep-  
9 resentatives.

10 (2) School districts must include in the policy:

11 (a) A statement prohibiting harassment, intimidation or bullying and prohibiting cyberbullying.

12 (b) Definitions of "harassment," "intimidation" or "bullying" and of "cyberbullying" that are  
13 consistent with ORS 339.351.

14 (c) Definitions of "protected class" that are consistent with ORS 174.100 and 339.351.

15 (d) A statement of the scope of the policy, including a notice that the policy applies to behavior  
16 at school-sponsored activities, on school-provided transportation and at any official school bus stop.

17 (e) A description of the type of behavior expected from each student.

18 (f) A procedure that is uniform throughout the school district for reporting an act of harassment,  
19 intimidation or bullying or an act of cyberbullying. A procedure established under this paragraph  
20 shall:

21 (A) Identify by job title the school officials responsible for receiving such a report at a school.

22 (B) Require a school employee to report an act of harassment, intimidation or bullying or an act  
23 of cyberbullying to a person identified under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph.

24 (C) Require the school official identified under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph to notify the  
25 parents or guardians of a student who was subjected to an act of harassment, intimidation or  
26 bullying or an act of cyberbullying and the parents or guardians of a student who may have con-  
27 ducted an act of harassment, intimidation or bullying or an act of cyberbullying. Notification must  
28 occur with involvement and consideration of the needs and concerns of the student who was sub-

**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter *[italic and bracketed]* is existing law to be omitted.  
New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 jected to an act of harassment, intimidation or bullying or an act of cyberbullying. *[For the purposes*  
2 *of this subparagraph:]*

3 *[(i) Notification is not required under this subparagraph if the school official reasonably believes*  
4 *notification could endanger the student who was subjected to an act of harassment, intimidation or*  
5 *bullying or an act of cyberbullying or if all of the following occur:]*

6 *[(I) The student who was subjected to an act of harassment, intimidation or bullying or an act of*  
7 *cyberbullying requests that notification not be provided to the student's parents or guardians;]*

8 *[(II) The school official determines that notification is not in the best interest of the student who*  
9 *was subjected to an act of harassment, intimidation or bullying or an act of cyberbullying; and]*

10 *[(III) The school official informs the student that federal law may require the student's parents or*  
11 *guardians to have access to the student's education record, including any requests made as provided*  
12 *by this sub-subparagraph.]*

13 *[(ii) If the school official does not make the determination described in sub-subparagraph (i)(II) of*  
14 *this subparagraph, the school official must inform the student of that determination prior to providing*  
15 *notification.]*

16 *[(iii) When notification is provided under this subparagraph, the notification must occur:]*

17 *[(I) Within a reasonable period of time; or]*

18 *[(II) Promptly, for acts that caused physical harm to the student.]*

19 (D) Identify any remedial action that may be imposed on a school employee for failure to make  
20 a report as required by subparagraph (B) of this paragraph.

21 (E) Allow a student or volunteer to report an act of harassment, intimidation or bullying or an  
22 act of cyberbullying voluntarily and anonymously to a person identified under subparagraph (A) of  
23 this paragraph. Nothing in this subparagraph may be construed to permit remedial action solely on  
24 the basis of an anonymous report.

25 (g) A procedure that is uniform throughout the school district for prompt investigation of a re-  
26 port of an act of harassment, intimidation or bullying or an act of cyberbullying. A procedure es-  
27 tablished under this paragraph shall identify by job title the school officials responsible for  
28 investigating such a report.

29 **(h) The school official identified under paragraph (f)(A) of this subsection who notified**  
30 **the parents or guardians of a student who was subjected to an act of harassment, intimid-**  
31 **ation or bullying or an act of cyberbullying also must provide to the parents or guardians**  
32 **a notification, as allowed by state and federal law, that describes the actions of the school**  
33 **in responding to the report of an act of harassment, intimidation or bullying or an act of**  
34 **cyberbullying.**

35 *[(h)] (i) A procedure by which a person may request a school district to review the actions of*  
36 *a school in responding to a report of an act of harassment, intimidation or bullying or an act of*  
37 *cyberbullying or investigating such a report.*

38 *[(i)] (j) A statement of the manner in which a school and a school district will respond after an*  
39 *act of harassment, intimidation or bullying or an act of cyberbullying is reported, investigated and,*  
40 *if applicable, confirmed.*

41 *[(j)] (k) A statement of the consequences and appropriate remedial action for a person found to*  
42 *have committed an act of harassment, intimidation or bullying or an act of cyberbullying.*

43 *[(k)] (L) A statement prohibiting reprisal or retaliation against any person who reports an act*  
44 *of harassment, intimidation or bullying or an act of cyberbullying and stating the consequences and*  
45 *appropriate remedial action for a person who engages in such reprisal or retaliation.*

1        *[(L)]* **(m)** A statement of the consequences and appropriate remedial action for a person found  
2 to have falsely accused another of having committed an act of harassment, intimidation or bullying  
3 or an act of cyberbullying as a means of reprisal or retaliation, as a means of harassment, intimid-  
4 idation or bullying or as a means of cyberbullying.

5        *[(m)]* **(n)** A statement of how the policy is to be publicized within the district. At a minimum, a  
6 school district shall make the policy:

7        **(A)** Annually available to parents, guardians, school employees and students in a student or  
8 employee handbook; and

9        **(B)** Readily available to parents, guardians, school employees, volunteers, students, administra-  
10 tors and community representatives at each school office or at the school district office and, if  
11 available, on the website for a school or the school district.

12        *[(n)]* **(o)** The identification by job title of school officials and school district officials responsible  
13 for ensuring that the policy is implemented.

14        **(3)** A school district that does not comply with the requirements of this section is considered  
15 nonstandard under ORS 327.103.

16        **SECTION 2. The amendments to ORS 339.356 by section 1 of this 2023 Act apply to**  
17 **actions taken in response to a report of an act of harassment, intimidation or bullying or**  
18 **an act of cyberbullying that is received by a school official on or after the effective date of**  
19 **this 2023 Act.**

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