

Cyberbullying/Electronic Bullying

This Act generally defines cyberbullying as bullying by using an electronic communication device. It incorporates cyberbullying into a general definition of bullying, and it directs local school boards to adopt plans to prohibit and address bullying on school grounds and in school vehicles.

Submitted as:

Kansas

[Chapter 77 of 2008](#)

Status: Enacted into law in 2008.

Suggested State Legislation

(Title, enacting clause, etc.)

1 Section 1. [*Short Title.*] This Act shall be cited as “An Act to Address Bullying and
2 Cyberbullying.”

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 Section 2. [*Definitions.*] As used in this Act:

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6 (1) “Bullying” means any intentional gesture or any intentional written, verbal,
7 electronic or physical act or threat that is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates
8 an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment for a student or staff member
9 that a reasonable person, under the circumstances, knows or should know will have the effect of
10 harming a student or staff member, whether physically or mentally; damaging a student’s or staff
11 member’s property; placing a student or staff member in reasonable fear of harm to the student
12 or staff member; placing a student or staff member in reasonable fear of damage to the student’s
13 or staff member’s property; cyberbullying; or any other form of intimidation or harassment
14 prohibited by the board of education of the school district in policies concerning bullying
adopted pursuant to [insert citation].

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 (2) “Cyberbullying” means bullying by use of any electronic communication device
16 through means including, but not limited to, e-mail, instant messaging, text messages, blogs,
17 mobile phones, pagers, online games and websites.

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 (3) “School district” means any public school district organized and operating under the
19 laws of this state.

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 (4) “School vehicle” means any school bus, school van, other school vehicle and private
21 vehicle used to transport students or staff members to and from school or any school-sponsored
22 activity or event.

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 Section 3. [*Local School Boards to Adopt Policy to Prohibit Bullying.*]

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 (a) The board of education of each school district shall adopt a policy to prohibit bullying
26 on or while using school property, in a school vehicle, or at a school-sponsored activity or event.

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 (b) The board of education of each school district shall adopt and implement a plan to
28 address bullying on school property, in a school vehicle, or at a school-sponsored activity or
29 event. Such plan shall include provisions to train and educate staff members and students about
30 bullying.

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 (c) The board of education of each school district may adopt additional policies relating
32 to bullying pursuant to [insert citation].

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Section 4. [*Severability.*] [Insert severability clause.]

Section 5. [*Repealer.*] [Insert repealer clause.]

Section 6. [*Effective Date.*] [Insert effective date.]