

# An Act Concerning Bullying Behavior in Schools

A bill was passed in 2002 by the CT General Assembly requiring all schools in the state of Connecticut to develop a 'bullying policy' by February 1, 2003. 'Bullying' is defined in this law as:

*"Any overt acts by a student or a group of students directed against another student with the intent to ridicule, humiliate or intimidate the other student while on school grounds or at a school-sponsored activity which acts are repeated against the same student over time."*

Each district's policy must follow these guidelines:

- 1. "Enable students to anonymously report acts of bullying to teachers and school administrators"*
- 2. Enable the parents or guardians of students to file written reports of suspected bullying*
- 3. Require teachers, and other school staff who witness acts of bullying or receive student reports of bullying to notify school administrators*
- 4. Require school administrators to investigate any written reports filed pursuant to subdivision (2) of this section and to review any anonymous reports*
- 5. Include an intervention strategy for school staff to deal with bullying*
- 6. Provide for the inclusion of language in student codes of conduct concerning bullying*
- 7. Require the parents or guardians of students who commit any verified acts of bullying, and the parents or guardians of students against whom such acts were directed to be notified*
- 8. Require each school to maintain a list of the number of verified acts of bullying in such school and make such a list available for public inspection. The notification required pursuant to subdivision (7) of this section shall include a description of the response of school staff to such acts and any consequences that may result for the commission of further acts of bullying."*

## **Public Act No. 02-119**