

HOUSE BILL No. 2758

AN ACT concerning schools; relating to the powers and duties thereto; amending K.S.A. 72-3603 and K.S.A. 2007 Supp. 72-8256 and repealing the existing sections.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. K.S.A. 2007 Supp. 72-8256 is hereby amended to read as follows: 72-8256. (a) As used in this section:

(1) “Bullying” means: (A) Any intentional gesture or any intentional written, verbal, *electronic* or physical act or threat that is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment for a student or staff member that a reasonable person, under the circumstances, knows or should know will have the effect of:

(i) Harming a student or staff member, whether physically or mentally;

(ii) damaging a student’s or staff member’s property;

(iii) placing a student or staff member in reasonable fear of harm to the student or staff member; or

(iv) placing a student or staff member in reasonable fear of damage to the student’s or staff member’s property; ~~or~~

(B) *cyberbullying*; or

~~(B)~~ (C) any other form of intimidation or harassment prohibited by the board of education of the school district in policies concerning bullying adopted pursuant to this section or subsection (e) of K.S.A. 72-8205, and amendments thereto.

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

~~(2)~~ (3) “School vehicle” means any school bus, school van, other school vehicle and private vehicle used to transport students or staff members to and from school or any school-sponsored activity or event.

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

(c) The board of education of each school district shall adopt and implement a plan to address bullying on school property, in a school vehicle or at a school-sponsored activity or event. Such plan shall include provisions for the training and education for staff members and students.

(d) The board of education of each school district may adopt additional policies relating to bullying pursuant to subsection (e) of K.S.A. 72-8205, and amendments thereto.

~~(e) The requirements of this section shall be implemented by school districts on or before January 1, 2008.~~

Sec. 2. K.S.A. 72-3603 is hereby amended to read as follows: 72-3603. As used in this act:

(a) “Board” means the board of education of any school district.

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

(c) “Parent education program” means a program developed and operated by a board for the purpose of providing expectant parents and parents of infants or toddlers or both with information, advice, assistance, resource materials, guidance and learning experiences regarding such measures as parenting skills and the various styles of parenting, the processes and principles of growth and development of children, home learning activities designed for infants and toddlers, techniques emphasizing a positive approach to discipline, effective methods of communicating and interacting with children so as to foster the development of self-esteem, strategies for structuring behavioral limits and increasing mutual positive regard, and other elements of effective parenting that are conducive to the structuring of a home environment in which children are encouraged to be successful and productive learners.

(d) “Infant” and “toddler” ~~mean a child who has not attained the age of three years~~ means *any child under the age of eligibility for school attendance.*

(e) “State board” means the state board of education.

Sec. 3. K.S.A. 72-3603 and K.S.A. 2007 Supp. 72-8256 is hereby repealed.

Sec. 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.

I hereby certify that the above BILL originated in the HOUSE, and passed that body

HOUSE concurred in
SENATE amendments _____

Speaker of the House.

Chief Clerk of the House.

Passed the SENATE
as amended _____

President of the Senate.

Secretary of the Senate.

APPROVED _____

Governor.