

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.”

3

4

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

5

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

15

 (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.

18

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

20

 (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.

23

24

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

25

 (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.

27

 (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.

31

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

33
34
35
36
37
38

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

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

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