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HOUSE BILL 54

51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2013

INTRODUCED BY

Sheryl Williams Stapleton

AN ACT

RELATING TO PUBLIC EDUCATION; REQUIRING LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS TO
PROMULGATE CYBERBULLYING PREVENTION POLICIES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. Section 22-2-21 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2011,
Chapter 50, Section 1) is amended to read:

"22-2-21. BULLYING AND CYBERBULLYING PREVENTION
PROGRAMS.--

A. The department shall establish guidelines for
bullying prevention policies to be promulgated by local school
boards. Every local school board shall promulgate a bullying
prevention policy by August 2011. Every public school shall
implement a bullying prevention program by August 2012.

B. Every local school board shall promulgate a
specific cyberbullying prevention policy by August 2013.

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1 Cyberbullying prevention policies shall require that:

2 (1) all licensed school employees complete
3 training on how to recognize signs that a person is being
4 cyberbullied;

5 (2) any licensed school employee who has
6 information about or a reasonable suspicion that a person is being
7 cyberbullied report the matter immediately to the school principal
8 or the local superintendent or both;

9 (3) any school administrator or local
10 superintendent who receives a report of cyberbullying take
11 immediate steps to ensure prompt investigation of the report; and

12 (4) school administrators take prompt
13 disciplinary action in response to cyberbullying confirmed through
14 investigation.

15 C. Each local school board shall make any necessary
16 revisions to its disciplinary policies to ensure compliance with
17 the provisions of this section.

18 D. As used in this section, "cyberbullying" means the
19 use of communication technologies, including internet and mobile
20 telecommunication services, to intimidate, control, manipulate,
21 falsely discredit, humiliate, embarrass or otherwise harm another
22 person."