

# Anti-Bullying Legislative Report



January 2021

State of Iowa  
Department of Education  
Grimes State Office Building  
400 E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
Des Moines, IA 50319-0146

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## EXECUTIVE ORDER 86

In September 2015, Governor Branstad signed Executive Order 86 related to bullying. Executive Order 86 provided the following direction.

1. Establishment of the Governor's Office of Bully Prevention. This office shall address the following:
  - a. Training.
  - b. 24-Hour hotline.
  - c. Reporting procedures.
  - d. Cyberbullying.
  - e. Data collection.
  - f. Varsity Interscholastic Athletic Participation.

The Iowa Department of Education (Department) partners with the Governor's Office for Bullying Prevention to provide support and collaborate to ensure resources are maximized and used efficiently to meet the direction provided in the Executive Order.

### **CURRENT SUPPORTS TO BULLYING PREVENTION PROGRAMMING:**

During the past two years, the Department has engaged in the following related activities:

1. Created Return to Learn Cyberbullying Prevention training for school districts in conjunction with Social Emotional Behavioral Health supports.
2. Completed the development of a web-based bullying/harassment prevention and intervention training that is shared through area education professional development online (AEA PD Online) which became available December 2020. This training replaced the previous online training which was updated to include cyberbullying, bullying definition, types of bullying and environmental conditions, role affiliation, law and policy, and the continuous improvement process. Federal funds - \$44,865.
3. Supported bullying-related calls from school districts, parents, caregivers, students and area education agencies by the Bureau of Learner Strategies and Supports as well as the Bureau of School Improvement.
4. Continued work with schools related to mental health, including bullying, through a five-year, Now is the Time Project Advancing Wellness and Resilience in Education (AWARE), a federal grant through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA). Federal grant funds used \$35,607. This grant concluded in March 2020.
5. Completed development of a web-based bullying intake and investigation training that is shared through AEA PD Online which became available in March 2018, using funds or the Department's Project AWARE grant (\$14,130). For the past two years a total of 1,005 educators have completed the module.
6. Awarded \$494,000 School Violence Prevention and Mental Health (STOP) grant in October 2018 from the U.S. Department of Justice. The grant targets, during its tenure, seven schools from each AEA (42 total schools) to train 168 school personnel in Mentors in Violence Prevention (MVP) and 540 school personnel in Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA). Over 2,500 youth will be trained as MVP student leaders, which includes training on both violence prevention and mental health. During its first year, a total of 25 schools were trained. In the fall of 2020, one cohort with three schools were trained. A second cohort is scheduled for spring 2021. The grant has been extended until September 2022.

## PROJECTED SUPPORTS AND EXPENDITURES TO BULLYING PREVENTION PROGRAMMING

The following chart describes the functions and projected expenditures for the next fiscal year.

| Function   | Resource  | Status   |
|--|---|--|
| <p>Integration of Bullying Prevention into Positive Behavior Intervention and Supports:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Summary of evidenced-based prevention, intervention, practices, programs and curricula.</li> <li>2. Develop training module of evidenced-based interventions and practices.</li> <li>3. Implement face-to-face, train-the-trainer module for implementation of evidenced-based practice implementation.</li> <li>4. Develop online repository of information, instruments, materials and resources for evidenced-based practice implementation.</li> </ol> | <p><b>Federal Funds</b><br/>\$55,550</p>              | <p><b>Ongoing</b><br/><b>Completion Date:</b><br/><b>June 30, 2021</b></p>                             |
| <p><b>Current Activity</b></p> <p>In March 2018, the completion of a web-based bullying intake and investigation training was completed and then offered to educators through AEA PD Online. This online platform continues ongoing efforts to support educators in Iowa.</p>  | <p><b>Federal Grant Funds</b><br/><b>\$14,130</b></p> | <p><b>Trainings Completed from 2019 – 2021</b></p> <p>Educators who completed the module is 1,005.</p> |

|   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <p><b>Current Activity</b></p> <p>Provide technical assistance and support to three Project AWARE grant partner districts in increasing access to mental health supports and increasing school safety, including but not limited to, bullying prevention.</p>   | <p><b>Federal Grant Funds</b></p> <p><b>\$35,607</b></p> <p>Part of a \$1,929,427 Project AWARE five-year grant that addresses a wide range of mental health supports in an integrated fashion, which includes anti-bullying efforts.</p> | <p><b>Grant Completion</b></p> <p><b>March 2020</b></p>  |
| <p><b>Current Activity</b></p> <p>Awarded \$494,000 School Violence Prevention and Mental Health grant in October 2018 from the U.S. Department of Justice. The grant will target, during its four-year tenure, seven schools in AEA's (42 total schools) to train personnel in Mentors in Violence Prevention and Youth Mental Health First Aid.</p> | <p><b>Federal Grant Funds</b></p> <p><b>\$126,590</b></p> <p>Federal dollars allocated and spent to the University of Northern Iowa, Mentors in Violence Prevention Training is \$83,022.</p> <p>Grant Administration \$43,569.</p>       | <p><b>Grant Completion</b></p> <p><b>September 2022</b></p> <p>To date:</p> <p>Spectrum of Prevention personnel trained is 65.</p> <p>Mentors in Violence Prevention personnel trained is 103.</p> <p>Youth Mental Health First Aid trained is 58.</p> |