

CHAPTER 205
HB 131 - FINAL VERSION

7Jan2026... 3071h
04/16/2026 1396s
21May2026... 2131EBA

2026 SESSION

25-0218
02/05

HOUSE BILL ***131***

AN ACT relative to bullying and cyberbullying prevention.

SPONSORS: Rep. Ladd, Graf. 5; Rep. Cordelli, Carr. 7; Rep. Drye, Sull. 7; Rep. Noble, Hills. 2;
Rep. Terry, Belk. 7; Rep. Lynn, Rock. 17; Rep. Weyler, Rock. 14; Rep. Hill, Merr. 2;
Rep. Kofalt, Hills. 32; Rep. S. Smith, Sull. 3; Sen. Ward, Dist 8

COMMITTEE: Education Policy and Administration

AMENDED ANALYSIS

This bill:

I. Requires the department of education to report the number of waivers granted for parental notification, the number of waivers granted for investigation extensions, and the number of out-of-state cyberbullying cases reported and investigated.

II. Requires anti-bullying procedures to be included in the student handbook and that alleged victims get a written copy of their rights, protections, and support services available to them.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

CHAPTER 205
HB 131 - FINAL VERSION

7Jan2026... 3071h
04/16/2026 1396s
21May2026... 2131EBA

25-0218
02/05

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Six

AN ACT relative to bullying and cyberbullying prevention.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 205:1 Education; Pupil Safety and Violence Prevention. RSA 193-F:4 is repealed and reenacted to
2 read as follows:

3 193-F:4 Pupil Safety and Violence Prevention.

4 I. Bullying or cyberbullying shall occur when an action or communication as defined in RSA 193-
5 F:3:

6 (a) Occurs on, or is delivered to, school property or a school-sponsored activity or event on
7 or off school property; or

8 (b) Occurs off of school property or outside of a school-sponsored activity or event, if the
9 conduct interferes with a pupil's educational opportunities or substantially disrupts the orderly operations
10 of the school or school-sponsored activity or event.

11 II. The school board of each school district and the board of trustees of a chartered public school
12 and public academy shall, no later than 6 months after the effective date of this section, adopt a written
13 policy prohibiting bullying and cyberbullying. Such policy shall include the definitions set forth in RSA
14 193-F:3. The policy shall contain, at a minimum, the following components:

15 (a) A statement prohibiting bullying or cyberbullying of a pupil.

16 (b) A statement prohibiting retaliation or false accusations against a victim, witness, or
17 anyone else who in good faith provides information about an act of bullying or cyberbullying and, at the
18 time a report is made, a process for developing, as needed, a plan to protect pupils from retaliation.

19 (c) A requirement that all pupils are protected regardless of their status under the law.

20 (d) A statement that there shall be disciplinary consequences or interventions, or both, for a
21 pupil who commits an act of bullying or cyberbullying, or falsely accuses another of the same as a means
22 of retaliation or reprisal.

23 (e) A statement indicating how the policy shall be made known to school employees, regular
24 school volunteers, pupils, parents, legal guardians, or employees of a company under contract to a
25 school, school district, or chartered public school. Methods of communication may include, but are not
26 limited to, handbooks, websites, newsletters, and workshops.

27 (f) A procedure for reporting bullying, cyberbullying, or retaliation that identifies all persons to
28 whom a pupil or another person may report bullying, cyberbullying, or retaliation. The procedure shall be
29 included in the student handbook.

30 (g) A procedure outlining the internal reporting requirements within the school or school
31 district or chartered public school.

CHAPTER 205
HB 131 - FINAL VERSION
- Page 2 -

1 (h) A requirement that school staff members, coaches, and bus drivers report incidents of
2 bullying to the school principal or other designee, as outlined in district reporting requirements.

3 (i) A procedure for notification, within 48 hours of the incident report, to the parent or parents
4 or guardian of a victim of bullying or cyberbullying and the parent or parents or guardian of the perpetrator
5 of the bullying or cyberbullying. The content of the notification shall comply with the Family Educational
6 Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. 1232g, and the measures being taken to ensure the safety of the
7 student who has been bullied and to prevent further acts of bullying. School officials will provide an
8 alleged victim with a written copy of their rights, protections, and support services available.

9 (j) A provision that the superintendent or designee may, within the 48-hour period, grant the
10 school principal or designee a waiver from the notification requirement if the superintendent or designee
11 deems such waiver to be in the best interest of the victim or perpetrator. Notification of parents may be
12 waived for no longer than 5 school days except for cases of bullying and/or cyberbullying across multiple
13 school districts. Any such waiver granted shall be in writing. Granting of a waiver shall not negate the
14 school's responsibility to adhere to the remainder of its approved written policy.

15 (k) A written procedure for investigation of reports, to be initiated within 5 school days of the
16 reported incident, identifying either the principal or the principal's designee as the person responsible for
17 the investigation and the manner and time period in which the results of the investigation shall be
18 documented. The superintendent or designee may grant in writing an extension of the time period for the
19 investigation and documentation of reports for up to an additional 7 school days, if necessary. The
20 superintendent or superintendent's designee shall notify in writing all parties involved of the granting of an
21 extension and the reason for the extension. The alleged victim's parents or guardians shall be notified of
22 the investigation, extension, and the reason for the extension. In cases of bullying and/or cyberbullying
23 across multiple school districts, the principals or designees of all districts involved shall be responsible for
24 conducting an investigation and shall collaborate. In such cases, the investigation shall be initiated by the
25 principal or designee of the first district to learn of the incident. In cases of bullying and/or cyber bullying
26 across multiple states, the principal or designee of the first district located within New Hampshire to learn
27 of the incident shall contact the attorney general's office.

28 (l) A requirement that the principal or designee develop a response to remediate any
29 substantiated incident of bullying, cyberbullying, or retaliation, including imposing discipline if appropriate,
30 to reduce the risk of future incidents and, where deemed appropriate, to offer assistance to the victim or
31 perpetrator. When indicated, the principal or designee shall recommend a strategy for protecting all
32 pupils from retaliation of any kind.

33 (m) A requirement that the principal or designee conduct a conference with the perpetrator,
34 the parent or parents or guardian or guardians of the perpetrator, and applicable school personnel for
35 age-appropriate discussion that includes at a minimum the impacts of bullying. The conference shall
36 occur even if the parent or parents or guardian or guardians decline to participate or fail to attend.

37 (n) A requirement that the principal or designee report all substantiated incidents of bullying,
38 cyberbullying, or retaliation to the superintendent or designee.

CHAPTER 205
HB 131 - FINAL VERSION
- Page 3 -

1 (o) A written procedure for communication with the parent or parents or guardian of victims
2 and perpetrators regarding the school's remedies and assistance, within the boundaries of applicable
3 state and federal law. This communication shall occur within 10 school days of completion of the
4 investigation.

5 (p) Identification, by job title, of school officials responsible for ensuring that the policy is
6 implemented.

7 III. The department of education may develop a model policy in accordance with the
8 requirements set forth in this chapter, which may be used by schools, school districts, and chartered
9 public schools as a basis for adopting a local policy.

10 IV. A school board or board of trustees of a chartered public school shall, to the greatest extent
11 practicable, involve pupils, parents, administrators, school staff, school volunteers, community
12 representatives, and local law enforcement agencies in the process of developing the policy. The policy
13 shall be adopted by all public schools within the school district and, to the extent possible, the policy
14 should be integrated with the school's curriculum. The policy shall be integrated into discipline policies,
15 behavior programs, and other violence prevention efforts.

16 V. By January 1, 2027, each public school district and chartered public school shall make
17 available a report or link to a report on how their policy has been integrated into the school's curriculum,
18 discipline policies, behavior programs, and other violence prevention efforts. The report or link shall be
19 provided to office of commissioner in the department, chair of the state board of education, the senate
20 president, speaker of the house and members of the house and senate education committees.

21 VI. It shall be a violation of the educator code of conduct to intentionally violate the district
22 internal reporting requirements, submit inaccurate or false information, fail to adhere to the timelines in
23 this section, or commit an act of retaliation against a reporter of bullying or cyberbullying or against a
24 parent.

25 VII. Students who have admitted to or been found to have engaged in harassment, intimidation,
26 retaliation, or bullying shall be subject to disciplinary action, including suspension and expulsion. Any
27 student determined to have submitted a false report of harassment, intimidation, or bullying is also subject
28 to disciplinary action, including suspension and expulsion.

29 205:2 Education; Pupil Safety and Violence Prevention; Reporting. Amend RSA 193-F:6, II to read
30 as follows:

31 II. The department of education shall prepare an annual report of substantiated incidents of
32 bullying, cyberbullying, or retaliation in the schools. The report shall include the number and types of such
33 incidents in the schools and ***the number of waivers granted for parental notification, the number of waivers***
34 ***granted for investigation extensions, and the number of out-of-state cyberbullying cases reported,***
35 ***investigated, and reported to the attorney general's office.*** The report shall be submitted to the president
36 of the senate, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the chairpersons of the house and senate
37 education committees. The department of education shall assist school districts with recommendations
38 for appropriate actions to address identified problems with pupil safety and violence prevention. 205:

CHAPTER 205
HB 131 - FINAL VERSION
- Page 4 -

1 205:3 Prospective Repeal. RSA 193-F:4, V, relative to public school districts and chartered public
2 schools making reports available on how their antibullying policies have been integrated into the school's
3 curriculum, is repealed.

4 205:4 Repeal. RSA 193-F:3, I(b), relative to the definition of bullying, is repealed.

5 205:5 Effective Date.

6 I. Section 3 of this act shall take effect January 1, 2027.

 II. The remainder of this act shall take effect 30 days after its passage.

Approved: July 02, 2026

Effective Date:

I. Section 3 effective January 1, 2027

II. Remainder effective August 1, 2026