



General Assembly

Amendment

February Session, 2018

LCO No. 4546



Offered by:

SEN. SLOSSBERG, 14th Dist.

SEN. BOUCHER, 26th Dist.

To: Subst. Senate Bill No. 453

File No. 480

Cal. No. 281

"AN ACT CONCERNING CLASSROOM SAFETY AND DISRUPTIVE BEHAVIOR."

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and substitute the
2 following in lieu thereof:

3 "Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 10-222d of the general statutes is
4 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*
5 *1, 2018*):

6 (a) As used in this section, sections 10-222g to [10-222i, inclusive,
7 and section] 10-222k, inclusive, as amended by this act, and section 2 of
8 this act:

9 (1) "Bullying" means (A) the repeated use by one or more students
10 of a written, oral or electronic communication, such as cyberbullying,
11 directed at or referring to another student attending school in the same
12 school district, or (B) a physical act or gesture by one or more students
13 repeatedly directed at another student attending school in the same

14 school district, that: (i) Causes physical or emotional harm to such
15 student or damage to such student's property, (ii) places such student
16 in reasonable fear of harm to himself or herself, or of damage to his or
17 her property, (iii) creates a hostile environment at school for such
18 student, (iv) infringes on the rights of such student at school, or (v)
19 substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of
20 a school. "Bullying" shall include, but not be limited to, a written, oral
21 or electronic communication or physical act or gesture based on any
22 actual or perceived differentiating characteristic, such as race, color,
23 religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender
24 identity or expression, socioeconomic status, academic status, physical
25 appearance, or mental, physical, developmental or sensory disability,
26 or by association with an individual or group who has or is perceived
27 to have one or more of such characteristics;

28 (2) "Cyberbullying" means any act of bullying through the use of the
29 Internet, interactive and digital technologies, cellular mobile telephone
30 or other mobile electronic devices or any electronic communications;

31 (3) "Teen dating violence" means any act of physical, emotional or
32 sexual abuse, including stalking, harassing and threatening, that
33 occurs between two students who are currently in or who have
34 recently been in a dating relationship;

35 (4) "Mobile electronic device" means any hand-held or other
36 portable electronic equipment capable of providing data
37 communication between two or more individuals, including, but not
38 limited to, a text messaging device, a paging device, a personal digital
39 assistant, a laptop computer, equipment that is capable of playing a
40 video game or a digital video disk, or equipment on which digital
41 images are taken or transmitted;

42 (5) "Electronic communication" means any transfer of signs, signals,
43 writing, images, sounds, data or intelligence of any nature transmitted
44 in whole or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photoelectronic
45 or photo-optical system;

46 (6) "Hostile environment" means a situation in which bullying
47 among students is sufficiently severe or pervasive to alter the
48 conditions of the school climate;

49 (7) "Outside of the school setting" means at a location, activity or
50 program that is not school related, or through the use of an electronic
51 device or a mobile electronic device that is not owned, leased or used
52 by a local or regional board of education;

53 (8) "School employee" means (A) a teacher, substitute teacher,
54 school administrator, school superintendent, guidance counselor,
55 psychologist, social worker, nurse, physician, school paraprofessional
56 or coach employed by a local or regional board of education or
57 working in a public elementary, middle or high school; or (B) any
58 other individual who, in the performance of his or her duties, has
59 regular contact with students and who provides services to or on
60 behalf of students enrolled in a public elementary, middle or high
61 school, pursuant to a contract with the local or regional board of
62 education; [and]

63 (9) "School climate" means the quality and character of school life
64 with a particular focus on the quality of the relationships within the
65 school community between and among students and adults; [.] and

66 (10) "Daily classroom safety" means a classroom environment in
67 which students and school employees are not physically injured by
68 other students, school employees or parents, or exposed to such
69 physical injury to others.

70 Sec. 2. (NEW) (Effective July 1, 2018) (a) Not later than September 1,
71 2019, each local and regional board of education shall revise its safe
72 school climate plan, developed pursuant to section 10-222d of the
73 general statutes, as amended by this act, to include provisions
74 addressing daily classroom safety in the schools under the jurisdiction
75 of such board. Such plan shall: (1) Include a prevention and
76 intervention strategy, as defined in section 10-222g of the general
77 statutes, as amended by this act, for daily classroom safety, (2) provide

78 for the inclusion of language in student codes of conduct concerning
79 daily classroom safety, (3) provide a designated procedure and
80 support plan for daily classroom safety that includes (A) the identity of
81 the administrator who is to be notified by a teacher when a student is
82 violating daily classroom safety, and the identity of any other
83 individuals who may be contacted if such administrator is unavailable,
84 (B) the process by which such administrator is to investigate and assess
85 the facts and severity of a violation of daily classroom safety, (C) the
86 location where a teacher may refer a student who is violating daily
87 classroom safety, (D) therapeutic support for the teacher and student
88 or students involved in an incident of a violation of daily classroom
89 safety, and (E) a process for ensuring that such support plan complies
90 with the provisions in section 10-76d of the general statutes regarding
91 students who are the subject of repeat referrals for violations of daily
92 classroom safety, (4) require the principal of the school to notify (A)
93 the parents or guardians of a student who has violated daily classroom
94 safety that such student has violated daily classroom safety and the
95 details of such violation, and (B) in cases when such violation is
96 witnessed by other students, the local or regional board of education
97 and the parents or guardians of such students who witnessed such
98 violation of the details of such violation without disclosing the identity
99 of the student who violated daily classroom safety, (5) require each
100 school to invite the parents or guardians of a student who violated
101 daily classroom safety to a meeting to discuss specific interventions
102 undertaken by the school to prevent further violations of daily
103 classroom safety, (6) establish a procedure for each school to document
104 and maintain records relating to reports and investigations of
105 violations of daily classroom safety in such school and to maintain a
106 list of the number of violations of daily classroom safety in such school
107 and make such list available for public inspection, and annually report
108 such number to the Department of Education, and in such manner as
109 prescribed by the Commissioner of Education, (7) prohibit
110 discrimination and retaliation against an individual who reports or
111 assists in the investigation of a violation of daily classroom safety, and
112 (8) require an administrator to meet with the teacher of a student who

113 has violated daily classroom safety not later than two school days
114 following such violation to discuss how such student's behavior will
115 be addressed and what interventions will be implemented to support
116 such teacher and student.

117 (b) If a teacher refers a student out of such teacher's classroom for a
118 violation of daily classroom safety, the administrator may place such
119 student in another educational setting that is best suited to meet such
120 student's needs. The administrator may return such student to such
121 teacher's classroom if (1) such teacher consents to such student's
122 return, or (2) the crisis intervention team for the school, identified
123 pursuant to section 10-236b of the general statutes, or a team of
124 teachers and administrators of the school, designated by the school
125 principal to assess whether such student should return to such
126 teacher's classroom, determines that such return is warranted because
127 such student has received appropriate intervention and support and
128 there are adequate protections in the classroom for the safety of the
129 teacher and other students.

130 Sec. 3. Section 10-222j of the general statutes is repealed and the
131 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2018*):

132 The Department of Education shall provide, within available
133 appropriations, annual training to school employees, [as defined in
134 section 10-222d,] except those school employees who hold professional
135 certification pursuant to section 10-145b unless such school employee
136 who holds professional certification is the district safe school climate
137 coordinator, the safe school climate specialist or a member of the safe
138 school climate committee, as described in section 10-222k, as amended
139 by this act, on the prevention, identification and response to violations
140 of daily classroom safety, school bullying and teen dating violence, [as
141 defined in section 10-222d,] and the prevention of and response to
142 youth suicide. Such training may include, but not be limited to, (1)
143 developmentally appropriate strategies to ensure daily classroom
144 safety, prevent bullying and teen dating violence among students in
145 school and outside of the school setting, (2) developmentally

146 appropriate strategies for immediate and effective interventions to
147 ensure daily classroom safety and stop bullying and teen dating
148 violence, (3) information regarding the interaction and relationship
149 between students violating daily classroom safety or committing acts
150 of bullying and teen dating violence, students against whom such acts
151 of bullying and teen dating violence are directed and witnesses of such
152 acts of bullying and teen dating violence, (4) research findings on daily
153 classroom safety, bullying and teen dating violence, such as
154 information about the types of students who have been shown to be at-
155 risk for violating daily classroom safety, bullying and teen dating
156 violence in the school setting, (5) information on the incidence and
157 nature of cyberbullying, [as defined in section 10-222d,] (6) Internet
158 safety issues as they relate to cyberbullying, or (7) information on the
159 incidence of youth suicide, methods of identifying youths at risk of
160 suicide and developmentally appropriate strategies for effective
161 interventions to prevent youth suicide. Such training may be presented
162 in person by mentors, offered in state-wide workshops or through on-
163 line courses.

164 Sec. 4. Section 10-222k of the general statutes is repealed and the
165 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2018*):

166 (a) For the school year commencing July 1, [2012] 2018, and each
167 school year thereafter, the superintendent of each local or regional
168 board of education shall appoint, from among existing school district
169 staff, a district safe school climate coordinator. The district safe school
170 climate coordinator shall: (1) Be responsible for implementing the
171 district's safe school climate plan, developed pursuant to section 10-
172 222d, as amended by this act, (2) collaborate with the safe school
173 climate specialists, described in subsection (b) of this section, the board
174 of education for the district and the superintendent of schools of the
175 school district to prevent, identify and respond to bullying and
176 violations of daily classroom safety in the schools of the district, (3)
177 provide data and information, in collaboration with the
178 superintendent of schools of the district, to the Department of
179 Education regarding bullying and daily classroom safety, in

180 accordance with the provisions of subsection (b) of section 10-222d, as
181 amended by this act, and subsection (a) of section 10-222h, and (4)
182 meet with the safe school climate specialists at least twice during the
183 school year to discuss issues relating to bullying and daily classroom
184 safety in the school district and to make recommendations concerning
185 amendments to the district's safe school climate plan.

186 (b) For the school year commencing July 1, 2012, and each school
187 year thereafter, the principal of each school, or the principal's designee,
188 shall serve as the safe school climate specialist and shall (1) investigate
189 or supervise the investigation of reported acts of bullying in the school
190 in accordance with the district's safe school climate plan, (2) collect and
191 maintain records of reports and investigations of bullying in the
192 school, and (3) act as the primary school official responsible for
193 preventing, identifying and responding to reports of bullying in the
194 school.

195 (c) (1) For the school year commencing July 1, 2012, and each school
196 year thereafter, the principal of each school shall establish a committee
197 or designate at least one existing committee in the school to be
198 responsible for developing and fostering a safe school climate and
199 addressing issues relating to bullying and daily classroom safety in the
200 school. Such committee shall include at least one parent or guardian of
201 a student enrolled in the school appointed by the school principal.

202 (2) Any such committee shall: (A) Receive copies of completed
203 reports following investigations of bullying or violations of daily
204 classroom safety, (B) identify and address patterns of bullying or acts
205 that violate daily classroom safety among students in the school, (C)
206 implement the provisions of the school security and safety plan,
207 developed pursuant to section 10-222m, regarding the collection,
208 evaluation and reporting of information relating to instances of
209 disturbing or threatening behavior that may not meet the definition of
210 bullying or daily classroom safety, (D) review and amend school
211 policies relating to bullying and daily classroom safety, (E) review and
212 make recommendations to the district safe school climate coordinator

213 regarding the district's safe school climate plan based on issues and
214 experiences specific to the school, (F) educate students, school
215 employees and parents and guardians of students on issues relating to
216 bullying and daily classroom safety, (G) collaborate with the district
217 safe school climate coordinator in the collection of data regarding
218 bullying and violations of daily classroom safety, in accordance with
219 the provisions of subsection (b) of section 10-222d, as amended by this
220 act, and subsection (a) of section 10-222h, and (H) perform any other
221 duties as determined by the school principal that are related to the
222 prevention, identification and response to school bullying and
223 violations of daily classroom safety for the school.

224 (3) Any parent or guardian serving as a member of any such
225 committee shall not participate in the activities described in
226 subparagraphs (A) to (C), inclusive, of subdivision (2) of this
227 subsection or any other activity that may compromise the
228 confidentiality of a student.

229 Sec. 5. Section 10-222g of the general statutes is repealed and the
230 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2018*):

231 For the purposes of section 10-222d, as amended by this act, the
232 term "prevention and intervention strategy" may include, but is not
233 limited to, (1) implementation of a positive behavioral interventions
234 and supports process or another evidence-based model approach for
235 safe school climate or for ensuring daily classroom safety and the
236 prevention of bullying and teen dating violence identified by the
237 Department of Education, (2) school rules prohibiting acts that violate
238 daily classroom safety, bullying, teen dating violence, harassment and
239 intimidation and establishing appropriate consequences for those who
240 engage in such acts, (3) adequate adult supervision of outdoor areas,
241 hallways, the lunchroom and other specific areas where bullying or
242 teen dating violence is likely to occur, (4) inclusion of grade-
243 appropriate bullying and teen dating violence education and
244 prevention curricula in kindergarten through high school, (5)
245 individual interventions with the child who violates daily classroom

246 safety, the bully, parents and school employees, and interventions with
 247 the bullied child, parents and school employees, (6) school-wide
 248 training related to safe school climate, (7) student peer training,
 249 education and support, (8) promotion of parent involvement in
 250 prevention of acts that violate daily classroom safety and bullying
 251 [prevention] through individual or team participation in meetings,
 252 trainings and individual interventions, [and] (9) culturally competent
 253 school-based curriculum focusing on social-emotional learning,
 254 trauma-informed instruction, self-awareness and self-regulation, and
 255 (10) therapeutic support for students, as needed, following violations
 256 of daily classroom safety. Funding for the school-based bullying
 257 intervention and school climate improvement strategy may originate
 258 from public, private, federal or philanthropic sources. For purposes of
 259 this section, "interventions with the bullied child" includes referrals to
 260 a school counselor, psychologist or other appropriate social or mental
 261 health service, and periodic follow-up by the safe school climate
 262 specialist with the bullied child."

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>July 1, 2018</i>	10-222d(a)
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2018</i>	New section
Sec. 3	<i>July 1, 2018</i>	10-222j
Sec. 4	<i>July 1, 2018</i>	10-222k
Sec. 5	<i>July 1, 2018</i>	10-222g