Bullying Definitions in State Anti-Bullying Statutes

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State	Citation	Statutory definition of bullying (paraphrased; please see statute for exact language)
Alabama	Ala. Code § 16-28B-3.	Harassment: continuous pattern of intentional behavior that takes place on school property, on a school bus, or at a school-sponsored function including but not limited to written, electronic, verbal, or physical acts that are reasonably perceived as being motivated by any characteristic of a student or association with someone who has a particular characteristic, if it falls into a category listed in state BOE* or local board's model. To be harassment, conduct may (a) place student in reasonable fear of harm to person or damage to property; (b) have effect of substantially interfering with educational performance, opportunities, or benefits of a student; (c) have effect of substantially disrupting or interfering with orderly operation of the school; (d) have effect of creating a hostile environment in the school, on school property, on bus, or school-sponsored function; (e) have the effect of being sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive to create an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student.
Alaska	Alaska Stat. Ann. § 14.33.250.	Harassment, intimidation, or bullying: an intentional written, oral, or physical act, when the act is undertaken with the intent of threatening, intimidating, harassing, or frightening the student, and (A) physically harms student or damages student's property; (B) has effect of substantially interfering with student's education; (C) is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment; or (D) has effect of substantially disrupting orderly operation of the school.
Arizona	Ariz. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 15-341.	No statewide definition in the statute. Local school board policies and procedures must prohibit student-to-student harassment, intimidation and bullying on school grounds, property, buses, at school bus stops, school-sponsored events/activities, and through the use of electronic technology or electronic communication on school computers, networks, forums, and mailing lists.
Arkansas	Ark. Code Ann. § 6-18-514.	Bullying: intentional harassment, intimidation, humiliation, ridicule, defamation, or threat or incitement of violence by student against student or employee by written, verbal, electronic, or physical act that may address an attribute of the other student, employee, or person with whom the other student or employee is associated and that causes or creates actual or reasonably foreseeable: (A) physical harm to an employee or student or damage to employee or student's property; (B) substantial interference with a student's education or with an employee's role in education; (3) a hostile environment for one or more students or employees due to the severity, persistence or pervasiveness of the act; or (D) substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school or educational environment.

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		Electronic act: communication or image transmitted by electronic device. Harassment: pattern of unwelcome verbal or physical conduct relating to another's constitutionally or statutorily protected status that causes, or reasonably should be expected to cause, substantial interference with the other's performance in school environment. Substantial disruption: one or more of the following – (A) necessary cessation of instruction or educational activities; (B) inability of students or educational staff to focus on learning or function as an educational unit because of a hostile environment; (C) severe or repetitive disciplinary measures are needed in classroom or during educational activities; or (D) exhibition of other behaviors by students/staff that substantially interfere with the learning environment.
California	Cal. Educ. Code §§ 32261, 48900, 48900.4.	Bullying included in list of offenses for which student may be suspended or recommended for expulsion. Bullying includes student-to-student sex harassment, hate violence, and student-to-student or student-to-employee harassment, threats, or intimidation that is severe or pervasive enough to have the actual and reasonably expected effect of materially disrupting class work, creating substantial disorder, and invading the rights of either school personnel or students by creating an intimidating or hostile educational environment. Includes electronic act, defined as communication by means of electronic device, including but not limited to, posting on a social network website.
Colorado	Colo. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 22-32-109.1.	Bullying – any written or verbal expression, or physical or electronic act or gesture, or a pattern thereof, that is intended to coerce, intimidate, or cause any physical, mental, or emotional harm to any student. Bullying is prohibited against any student for any reason, including but not limited to any such behavior that is directed toward a student on the basis of his or her academic performance; or against whom federal and state laws prohibit discrimination.
Connecticut	Conn.Gen.Stat.Ann. § 10-222d.	Bullying – (A) the repeated use by one or more students of a written, oral, or electronic communication, such as cyberbullying, directed at or referring to another student attending school in the same district, or (B) a physical act or gesture by one or more students repeatedly directed at another student attending school in the same district, that: (i) causes physical or emotional harm to such student or damage to such student's property, (ii) places such student in reasonable fear of harm to him/herself, or damage to his/her property, (iii) creates a hostile environment at school for such student, (iv) infringes on the rights of such student at school, (v) substantially disrupts the education process or the orderly operation of a school. Cyberbullying – any act of bullying through the use of the Internet, interactive and digital technologies, cellular mobile telephone or other mobile electronic devices or any electronic communications.
Delaware	Del. Code Ann. tit. 14, § 4112D.	Bullying – intentional written, electronic, verbal or physical act against student, volunteer or employee that a reasonable person should know will have effect of: (1) placing in reasonable fear of substantial harm to emotional or physical well-being or substantial damage to property; (2) creating hostile, threatening, humiliating, or abusive educational environment due to pervasiveness or persistence of actions or due to power differential; (3) interfering with a student's safe school environment necessary to facilitate educational performance, opportunities or benefits; or (4) perpetuating bullying by inciting, etc. LSB policy must prohibit bullying on school property and functions, or by use of school computer/electronic technology. Definition of school property includes motor vehicle. Physical location or time of access no defense in technology related incident if sufficient school nexus.
DC	D.C. Code Mun. Regs. Tit. 5 § B2599.	Bullying - repeated intentional behavior to intentionally harm others through verbal or non verbal harassment, physical assault, or more subtle means. Includes: manipulation, teasing, taunting, threatening, hitting,

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		stealing, destroying person al property, sending threatening/abusive emails, text messages, or other electronic communications.
Florida	Fla. Stat. Ann. § 1006.147.	Bullying and harassment of student/employee prohibited during educational program or activity, on bus (investigation requirement says also bus stop), or through computer, system or network of K-12 educational institution. Bullying: systematically and chronically inflicting physical hurt or psychological distress on one or more students and may involve: (1) teasing; (2) social exclusion; (3) threat; (4) intimidation; (5) stalking; (6) physical violence; (7) theft; (8) sexual, religious, or racial harassment; (9) public humiliation; or (10) destruction of property. Harassment: any threatening, insulting or dehumanizing gesture, use of data or computer software, or written, verbal or physical conduct directed against a student or school employee that: (1) places student/employee in reasonable fear of harm to person or damage to property; (2) has effect of substantially interfering with student's educational performance, opportunities or benefits; or (3) has effect of substantially disrupting orderly operation of the school. Bullying and harassment include (1) retaliation; and (2) perpetuation of bullying or harassment through incitement/coercion, accessing or allowing access to school district system, or acting in manner with similar effect to bullying or harassment.
Georgia	Ga. Code Ann. § 20-2-751.4.	Bullying – an act which occurs on school property, on school vehicles, at designated school bus stops, or at school functions or activities, or by use of data/software accessed through computer/system/network, or other school electronic technology that is: (1) willful attempt or threat to inflict injury on another person when accompanied by apparent present ability to do so; (2) intentional display of force such as would give victim reason to fear/expect imminent bodily harm; or (3) intentional written/verbal or physical act which reasonable person would perceive as intended to threaten, harass, or intimidate, that: (A) causes substantial physical harm or visible bodily harm; (B) has effect of substantially interfering with student's education; (C) is so severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates intimidating or threatening educational environment; or (D) had effect of substantially disrupting orderly operation of the school.
Hawaii	HB 688, to be codified in Ch. 302A of Hawaii Revised Statutes	"Bullying" means any written, verbal, graphic, or physical act or acts that: (1) A student or group of students exhibits toward another student or group of students; (2) Cause mental or physical harm to the other student or group of students; and (3) Are sufficiently severe, persistent, or pervasive to create an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment. Bullying includes conduct that is based on a student's actual or perceived race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, religion, physical appearance and characteristic, or socio-economic status; or a student's association with a person or group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics. "Cyberbullying" means an act or acts exhibited by one student or group of students to another student or group of students that: (1) Are conveyed by electronic transmission via the Internet, a cell phone, a personal digital assistant (PDA), or a wireless hand-held device; (2) Cause mental or physical harm to the student or group of students that receives the electronic transmission; and (3) Are sufficiently severe, persistent, or

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		pervasive to create an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment. "Harassment" means harassing, bullying, including cyberbullying, annoying, or alarming a student or group of students by engaging in conduct that includes: (1) Striking, shoving, kicking, or otherwise touching a student or group of students in an offensive manner or subjecting that student or group of students to offensive physical contact; (2) Insulting, taunting, or challenging another student or group of students in a manner likely to provoke a violent response; (3) Making verbal or non-verbal expressions that cause another student or group of students to feel uncomfortable, pressured, threatened, or in danger because of reasons that include the student's or group's actual or perceived race, color, national origin, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, physical or mental disability, religion, physical appearance and characteristic, and socio-economic status, or association therewith, that creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment, or interferes with the education of a student or group of students, or otherwise adversely affects the educational opportunity of a student or group of students; (4) Name calling, making rude gestures, insulting, or teasing another student or group of students who, as a result, feels humiliated, intimidated, threatened, or embarrassed; (5) Making a telephone call without the purpose of legitimate communication; (6) Making repeated communications anonymously, at extremely inconvenient hours, or in offensively coarse language on campus or other department of education premises, on department of education transportation, or during a department of education-sponsored activity or event on or off school property; (7) Causing fear as to prevent other students or groups of students from gaining legitimate access to or use of school buildings, facilities, services, or grounds such as restroom facilities; and (8) Physically harming, physically restraining, threatening, or stalking, or a combination of the foregoing.
Idaho	Idaho Code Ann. § 18-917A.	Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying (includes conspiring): intentional gesture, or intentional written, verbal or physical act or threat by a student that: (a) reasonable person should know will have effect of: (i) harming student; (ii) damaging student's property; (iii) placing student in reasonable fear of harm to person; or (iv) placing student in reasonable fear of damage to property; or (b) is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment for a student. Act may be committed through telephone/cell phone/computer.
Illinois	105 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 5/27-23.7.	Bullying – student-to-student or employee-to-student severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including written or electronic communications, directed toward a student or group of students on basis of listed or other distinguishing characteristic that has or can be reasonably predicted to have effect of one or more of the following effects: (1) placing student(s) in reasonable fear of harm to his person or property; (2) causing substantial detrimental effect on student's(') physical or mental health; (3) substantially interfering with student's(') academic performance; or (4) substantially interfering with student's(') ability to participate

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		in or benefit from services, activities, privileges of school. May take many forms, including harassment, threat, intimidation, stalking, physical violence, sexual violence, theft, public humiliation, destruction of property, sexual harassment, retaliation. Telephone harassment is Class B misdemeanor. Preventing/interfering with child's attendance at school is Class A misdemeanor.
Indiana	Ind. Code Ann. § 20-33-8-0.2.	Bullying – student-to-student overt, repeated acts or gestures, including (1) verbal or written communications transmitted; (2) physical acts committed; or (3) any other behaviors committed with intent to harass, ridicule, humiliate, intimidate, or harm the other student. LSB's prohibition on bullying must apply when student is (1) on school grounds immediately before/after or during school hours, or any other time school used by school group; (2) off school grounds at school event; (3) traveling to/from school or school event; or (4) using property/equipment provided by the school.
Iowa	Iowa Code Ann. § 280.28.	Harassment and Bullying – electronic, written, verbal or physical act or conduct toward student based on actual/perceived trait or characteristic of the student and which creates objectively hostile school environment that meets one or more of the following: (1) places student in reasonable fear of harm to student's person or property; (2) has substantially detrimental effect on student's physical or mental health; (3) has effect of substantially interfering with student's academic performance; (4) has effect of substantially interfering with student's ability to participate in or benefit from services, activities or privileges provided by school. Required policy components include prohibition of harassment or bullying by employee, volunteer and students in school, on school property, or at school function.
Kansas	Kan. Stat. Ann. § 72-8256.	Bullying: (A) Intentional gesture or written, verbal, electronic or physical act or threat that is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment for a student or staff member that reasonable person under the circumstances knows or should will have effect of: (i) harming student or staff member physically or mentally; (ii) damaging student or staff member's property; (iii) placing student or staff member in reasonable fear of harm to self; or (iv) placing student or staff member in reasonable fear of damage to property; OR (B) cyberbullying; OR (C) any other form of intimidation or harassment prohibited by school district in policies adopted pursuant to bullying statute. Cyberbullying: bullying by use of electronic communication device through means including email, instant messages, text, blog . . . School vehicle includes private vehicle used to transport students or staff members to/from school or event. Policy must prohibit bullying while on or utilizing school property, in vehicle or at event.
Kentucky	Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§ 525.070, 525.080.	Employee must report to principal assault and related offenses (including endangerment, threatening, criminal abuse, stalking) committed by a student against another student while on school premises, on school-sponsored transportation, or at school event. Harassment (Class B Misdemeanor) includes acts of enrolled student who, while on school premises, on school transportation, or at school event: (1) damages or commits theft of property of another student; (2) substantially disrupts operation of school; (3) creates a hostile environment by means of any gestures, written communications, oral statements, physical acts that a reasonable person should know would cause another student fear of physical harm, intimidation, humiliation, or embarrassment. Harassing communications (Class B Misdemeanor) when, with intent to intimidate harass, annoy, or alarm another person, he or she: (c) communicates, while enrolled as a student in a local school district, with or about another school student, anonymously or otherwise, by telephone, the internet, telegraph, mail, or any other form of electronic or written communication in a manner in which a reasonable person under the circumstances should know would cause the other student to suffer fear of physical harm,

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		intimidation, humiliation, or embarrassment and which serves no purpose of legitimate communication. But school employees required to report assault and related offenses, not harassment.
Louisiana	La. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§ 14:40.7, 17:416.13.	Harassment, intimidation, and bullying: any intentional gesture or written, verbal or physical act that: (a) reasonable person should know will have effect of harming student or damaging property or placing in reasonable fear of same; and (b) is so severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening, or abusive educational environment for a student. Cyberbullying (for purposes of writing each policy) means: harassment, intimidation, or bullying of a student on school property by another student using a computer, mobile phone, or other interactive or digital technology OR harassment, intimidation, or bullying of a student while off school property by another student using any such means when the action or actions are intended to have an effect on the student when the student is on school property. Also, 2010 cyberbullying criminal law defines cyberbullying as transmission of any electronic textual, visual, written, or oral communication with malicious and willful intent to coerce abuse, torment or intimidate person under 18.
Maine	Me. Rev. Stat. tit. 20-A § 1001.	No definition in statute. Subcommittee on School and Community Climate of Children's Cabinet was to develop model policies that would include a description of behaviors that constitute bullying, harassment, and sexual harassment.
Maryland	Md. Code Ann., Education § 7-424.	Bullying, harassment or intimidation: intentional conduct, including verbal, physical, or written conduct, or an intentional electronic communication, that: (i) creates a hostile educational environment by substantially interfering with a student's educational benefits, opportunities, or performance, or with a student's physical or psychological well-being and is (1) motivated by actual or perceived characteristic including (list) or (2) threatening or seriously intimidating; AND (ii) (1) occurs on school property, at activity, or bus; or (2) substantially disrupts the orderly operation of a school.
Massachusetts	Mass. Gen. Laws Ann. ch. 71, § 370.	Bullying: repeated use by student(s) of written, verbal or electronic expression or a physical act or gesture, or combination thereof, directed at victim that: (i) causes physical or emotional harm or damage to prop; (ii) places victim in reasonable fear of harm or damage to property; (iii) creates hostile environment at school for victim; infringes on rights of victim at school; or (v) materially and substantially disrupts the educational process or orderly operation of school. Includes cyberbullying. Cyberbullying: bullying through use of technology or any electronic communication, including (many listed). Includes distribution through electronic means of communication to more than one person or posting that may be accessed by one or more persons, if it creates conditions listed in (i) to (v), inclusive.
Michigan	M.C.L.A. 380.1310b	"Bullying" means any written, verbal, or physical act, or any electronic communication, that is intended or that a reasonable person would know is likely to harm 1 or more pupils either directly or indirectly by doing any of the following: (i) Substantially interfering with educational opportunities, benefits, or programs of 1 or more pupils. (ii) Adversely affecting the ability of a pupil to participate in or benefit from the school district's or public school's educational programs or activities by placing the pupil in reasonable fear of physical harm or by causing substantial emotional distress. (iii) Having an actual and substantial detrimental effect on a pupil's physical or mental health. (iv) Causing substantial disruption in, or substantial interference with, the orderly operation of the school.
Minnesota	Minn. Stat. Ann. § 121A.0695.	No definition in statute. Statute requires school boards to adopt written policy prohibiting intimidation and

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		bullying of any student.
Mississippi	Miss. Code Ann. § 37-11-67.	Bullying or harassing behavior: pattern of gestures or written, electronic or verbal communications, or physical act or threatening communication, or any act reasonably perceived as motivated by actual or perceived differentiating characteristic that takes place on school property, at function, or on bus and that: (1) places student or employee in actual and reasonable fear of harm to his person or damage to his property; or (2) creates or is certain to create hostile environment by substantially interfering with or impairing a student's educational performance, opportunities or benefits. Hostile environment: victim subjectively views the conduct as bullying or harassing behavior and conduct is objectively severe or pervasive enough that reasonable person would agree it is bullying or harassing behavior.
Missouri	Mo. Rev. Stat. § 160.775.	Bullying: intimidation or harassment that causes a reasonable student to fear for his or her physical safety or property. May be physical actions, including gestures, or oral, cyberbullying, electronic, or written communication, and any threat of retaliation for reporting. Mandatory reporting by school administrators to law enforcement of crimes of harassment and stalking "committed on school property." Harassment and stalking are also criminal offenses.
Montana	See Mont.Admin.R. 10.55.701 (no definition)	No statute. State Board of Public Education rule requires each school district to have policy addressing bullying/harassment/intimidation, but does not define.
Nebraska	Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 79-2, 137.	Bullying: any ongoing pattern of physical, verbal or electronic abuse on school grounds, vehicle, or school sponsored event/activity. Bullying can be grounds for long-term suspension or expulsion, as can use of violence, force, intimidation, etc. in a manner that constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes or with the intent of obtaining money or anything of value from another student.
Nevada	Nev. Rev. Stat. Ann. §§ 388.122-388.125.	Bullying: willful act or course of conduct by student(s) not authorized by law and exposes student repeatedly and over time to negative action(s) which is highly offensive to a reasonable person and intended to cause and actually causes student to suffer harm or serious emotional distress. Cyberbullying: bullying through electronic communication. Harassment: willful act or course of conduct not otherwise authorized by law and is: (1) highly offensive to a reasonable person; and (2) intended to cause and actually causes serious emotional distress. Intimidation: willful act or course of conduct not otherwise authorized by law and: (2) is highly offensive to a reasonable person; and (2) poses threat of immediate harm or actually inflicts harm to another person or property of another person. Conduct prohibited on school premises, activity or bus. Trustees, employees, students prohibited from bullying, cyberbullying, harassment and intimidation, BUT BULLYING DEFINED AS BY STUDENTS.
New Hampshire	N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 193-F:3.	(a) "Bullying" means a single significant incident or a pattern of incidents involving a written, verbal, or electronic communication, or a physical act or gesture, or any combination thereof, directed at another pupil which: (1) Physically harms a pupil or damages the pupil's property; (2) Causes emotional distress to a pupil; (3) Interferes with a pupil's educational opportunities; (4) Creates a hostile educational environment; or (5) Substantially disrupts the orderly operation of the school. (b) "Bullying" shall include actions motivated by an imbalance of power based on a pupil's actual or perceived personal characteristics, behaviors, or beliefs, or motivated by the pupil's association with another person and

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		based on the other person's characteristics, behaviors, or beliefs. II. "Cyberbullying" means conduct defined in paragraph I of this section undertaken through the use of electronic devices. III. "Electronic devices" include, but are not limited to, telephones, cellular phones, computers, pagers, electronic mail, instant messaging, text messaging, and websites.
New Jersey	N.J. Stat. Ann. §§ 18A: 37-14.	Harassment, intimidation or bullying – any gesture, written, verbal or physical act, or any electronic communication, whether it be a single incident or a series of incidents, that is reasonably perceived as being motivated either by any actual or perceived characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or a mental, physical or sensory disability, or by any other distinguishing characteristic, that takes place on the property of the institution of higher education or at any function sponsored by the institution of higher education, that substantially disrupts or interferes with the orderly operation of the institution or the rights of other students and that: (a) a reasonable person should know, under the circumstances, will have the effect of physically or emotionally harming a student or damaging the student's property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of physical or emotional harm to his person or damage to his property; (b) has the effect of insulting or demeaning any student or group of students; or (c) creates a hostile educational environment for the student by interfering with a student's education or by severely or pervasively causing physical or emotional harm to the student.
New Mexico	N.M. Admin. Code 6.12.7.	Bullying – any repeated and pervasive written verbal or electronic expression, phys act or gesture, or pattern, intended to cause distress upon one or more students in school, grounds, vehicles, bus stop, activities. Includes intimidation, hazing, harassment, which may, but need not be based on listed characteristic.
New York	N.Y. Educ. Law §§ 801-a, 2801.	Harassment: (1) creation of a hostile environment by conduct or by verbal threats, intimidation or abuse that has or would have the effect of unreasonably and substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities or benefits, or mental, emotional or physical well-being; or (2) conduct, verbal threats, intimidation or abuse that reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause a student to gear for his physical safety; such conduct, verbal threats intimidation or abuse includes but is not limited to that based on a person's actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin , ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender or sex.
North Carolina	N.C. Gen. Stat. Ann. § 115C-407.15.	Bullying or harassing behavior: any pattern of gestures or written, electronic or verbal communication or any physical act or any threatening communication that takes place on school property, at a school function or on a school bus and places student or school employee in actual and reasonable fear of harm to his person or damage to his property or creates or is certain to create hostile environment by substantially interfering with or impairing a student's educational performance, opportunities or benefits. Includes, but is not limited to, acts reasonably perceived as motivated by a characteristic (listed) or association with a person who has or is perceived to have one or more of these characteristics. Hostile Environment: victim subjectively views the conduct as bullying or harassing behavior and the conduct is objectively severe or pervasive enough that a reasonable person would agree that it is bullying or harassing behavior.

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North Dakota	N.D. Cent. Code Ann. § 15.1-19.	Bullying: (a) Conduct that occurs in a public school, on school district premises, in a school district owned or leased school bus or school vehicle, or at any public school or school district sanctioned or sponsored activity or event AND which: (1) is so severe, pervasive, or objectively offensive that it substantially interferes with the student's educational opportunities; (2) places the student in actual and reasonable fear of harm; (3) places the student in actual and reasonable fear of damage to property of the student; or (4) substantially disrupts the orderly operation of the public school; OR (b) Conduct received by a student while the student is in a public school, on school district premises, in a district owned or leased school bus or school vehicle, or at any public school or school district sanctioned or sponsored activity or event AND which: ((a)(1)-(4) above). Conduct includes the use of technology or other electronic media.
Ohio	Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 3313.666.	Harassment, intimidation or bullying: (a) any intentional written, verbal, electronic or physical act that a student has exhibited toward another particular student more than once and the behavior both (i) causes mental or physical harm to the other student; and (ii) is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment for the other student; OR (b) violence within a dating relationship. Policy must include a statement prohibiting harassment, intimidation or bullying of any student on school property, on a school bus, or at school-sponsored events and expressly providing for the possibility of a student found responsible for harassment, intimidation, or bullying by an electronic act.
Oklahoma	Okla. Stat. Ann. Tit. 70 § 24-100.3.	"Harassment, intimidation, and bullying" means any gesture, written or verbal expression, electronic communication, or physical act that a reasonable person should know will harm another student, damage another student's property, place another student in reasonable fear of harm to the student's person or damage to the student's property, or insult or demean any student or group of students in such a way as to disrupt or interfere with the school's educational mission or the education of any student. "Harassment, intimidation, and bullying" include, but are not limited to, gestures, written, verbal, or physical acts, or electronic communications.
Oregon	Or. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 339.351.	Harassment, intimidation, or bullying – any act that (a) substantially interferes with student's educational benefits, opportunities, or performance; (b) takes place on or immediately adjacent to school grounds, at a school activity, on school transportation or at school bus stop; (c) has the effect of: (A) physically harming a student or damaging a student's property; (B) knowingly placing student in reasonable fear of physical harm or damage to his property; or (C) creates hostile educational environment, including interfering with the psychological well-being of a student; AND (d) may be based on, but not be limited to, the person's protected class status. Cyberbullying: the use of any electronic communication device to harass, intimidate or bully.
Pennsylvania	Tit. No. 24 Pa. Cons. Stat. Ann. §13-1303. 1-A.	Bullying: intentional electronic, written, verbal or physical act, or series of acts: (1) directed at another student(s); (2) which occurs in school setting; (3) that is severe, persistent or pervasive; AND (4) has the effect of: (i) substantially interfering with student's education; (ii) creating a threatening environment; or (iii) substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school. "School setting:" in school, on school grounds, in school vehicles, at school bus stop, or at school activity. School entity may define bullying to encompass acts occurring outside the school setting if the definition meets (1), (3) and (4).
Rhode Island	R.I. Gen. Laws Ann. § 12-21-26.	Harassment, intimidation, or bullying: any intentional written, electronic, verbal or physical act or threat of physical act that (i) a reasonable person should know will have the effect of physically harming a student, damaging a student's property, placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to person or damage to his

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		property; OR (ii) is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment for a student. Policy must prohibit harassment, intimidation, or bullying at school. "At school:" in a classroom, elsewhere on or immediately adjacent to school premises, on school vehicle, at school bus stop, or at school activity.
South Carolina	S.C. Code Ann. § 59-63-120.	Harassment, intimidation, or bullying: a gesture, electronic communication, or written, verbal, physical or sexual act that is reasonably perceived to have effect of: (a) harming a student physically or emotionally or damaging a student's property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of personal harm or property damage; or (b) insulting or demeaning a student or group of students causing substantial disruption in, or interference with, the orderly operation of the school. Policy must prohibit harassment, intimidation, or bullying at school. "School:" in a classroom, on school premises, on school vehicle, at school bus stop, at school sponsored activity or event regardless if it is or is not on school premises or at another program or function where the school is responsible for the child.
South Dakota	See http://doe.sd.gov/oatq/civilrights.asp	No statute. State Department of Education provides link to outside resource.
Tennessee	Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-6-1015 and 1016.	Harassment, intimidation, bullying or cyber-bullying: any act that substantially interferes with student's educational benefits, opportunities or performance; AND (A) if the act takes place on school grounds, at a school activity, on school transportation or at any official school bus stop has effect of (1) physically harming a student or damaging a student's property; (2) knowingly placing a student in reasonable fear of physical harm or damage to the student's property; (3) causing emotional distress to a student or students; or (4) creating hostile educational environment; OR (B) if the act takes place off school property or outside of a school sponsored activity, it is directed specifically at a student or students and has the effect of creating a hostile educational environment or otherwise creating a substantial disruption to the education environment or learning process. Cyberbullying means bullying undertaken through the use of electronic devices. Crime of harassment includes via electronic communication (Class A misdemeanor).
Texas	Tex. Educ. Code Ann. § 37.0832. (Previous cite, § 25.0342 points to definition from § 37.0832 even though that cite does not yet exist on Westlaw).	Bullying: engaging in written or verbal expression, expression through electronic means, or physical conduct that occurs on school property, at a school-sponsored or school-related activity, or in a vehicle operated by the district and that: (1) has the effect or will have the effect of physically harming a student, damaging a student's property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to his person or damage to his property; or (2) is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive enough that the action or threat creates an intimidating, threatening or abusive educational environment for a student. Conduct is considered bullying if it: (1) exploits an imbalance of power between the student perpetrator and the student victim through written or verbal expression or physical conduct; AND (2) interferes with a student's education or substantially disrupts the operation of a school. Harassment: threatening to cause harm or bodily injury to another student, engaging in sexually intimidating conduct, causing physical damage to the property of another student, subjecting another student to physical confinement or restraint, or maliciously taking action that substantially harms another student's physical or emotional health or safety. Hit list: list of people targeted to be harmed using firearm, knife, or other object with intent to cause bodily harm.

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Utah	Utah Code Ann. §§ 53A-11a-102 to 53A-11a-402.	(1) Bullying: intentionally or knowingly committing an act that: (i)(A) endangers the physical health or safety of employee or student; (B) involves any brutality of a physical nature (listed): (C) involves consumption of food/liquor/drug/other substance; (D) involves other physical activity that endangers the physical health and safety of employee or student; or (E) involves physically obstructing employee's or student's freedom to move; AND (ii) is done for purpose of placing employee or student in fear of: (A) physical harm; or (B) harm to his property. (2) Communication means the conveyance of a message, whether verbal, written, or electronic. (3) Cyberbullying means using the Internet, a cell phone, or another device to send or post text, video, or an image with the intent or knowledge, or with reckless disregard, that the text, video, or image will hurt, embarrass, or threaten an individual. Acquiescence does not matter for bullying or cyberbullying. (4) Harassment means repeatedly communicating to another individual, in an objectively demeaning or disparaging manner, statements that contribute to a hostile learning or work environment for the individual. Prohibitions say no employee or student may engage in bullying or harassing employee or student on school property, at event, on bus, at bus stop, or while employee or student is traveling to/from such location or event. No employee or student may engage in hazing or cyberbullying at any time or in any location. BUT, electronic communication harassment is a crime. 3rd degree felony if repeated and any prior violation against minor. First time against minor, class A misdemeanor.
Vermont	Vt. Stat. Ann. Tit. 16 § 11(a) 32.	Bullying: any overt act or combination directed against student by another student(s) and which: (A) is repeated over time; (B) is intended to ridicule, humiliate, or intimidate the student; and (C) occurs during school day on school property, on school bus, or at school activity, or before/after school day on bus or activity. Harassment: incident(s) of verbal, written, visual, or physical conduct based on or motivated by a student's or student's family member's actual or perceived (characteristics listed) that has purpose or effect of objectively and substantially undermining and detracting from or interfering with a student's educational performance or access to school resources or creating an objectively intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment. Hazing: any act committed by person, individually or in concert with others, against student in connection with pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization affiliated with an educational institution, and is intended to have the effect of, or should reasonably be expected to have the effect of, humiliating, intimidating or soliciting, demeaning the student or endangering the mental or physical health of student. On or off campus. Does not include activity that furthers legitimate curricular, extracurricular or military training program goals (requirements listed). State model plan says conduct that would be bullying but does not occur at school, bus, etc., may be subject to disciplinary action, but does not meet definition of bullying. Code section allows principal to remove student who poses continuing danger to persons/property or ongoing threat of disrupting academic process of the school.
Virginia	VA. Code Ann. § 22.1-279.6.	No definition in statute. School boards must cite in code of student conduct the provisions of the VA criminal statute that defines and prohibits hazing and imposes a Class 1 misdemeanor penalty for violations. VDOE Annual Discipline, Crime, and Violence Report definition of bullying: "repeated negative behaviors intended to frighten or cause harm" that may include, but are not limited to, verbal or written threats or physical harm.

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		Non-criminal behavior associated with bullying includes intimidation, taunting, name-calling, and insults. VDOE site definition of cyberbullying – "using information and communication technologies, such as cell phone text messages and pictures and internet e-mail, social networking websites, defamatory personal websites, and defamatory online personal polling websites, to support deliberate, hostile, behavior intended to harm others." Harassment by computer and personal trespass by computer (using a computer to cause physical injury to individual) are crimes.
Washington	Wash. Rev. Code Ann. § 28A.300.285.	Harassment, intimidation, bullying: any intentional electronic, written, verbal or physical act, including but not limited to one motivated by characteristic (listed in criminal harassment statute) or other characteristic, when the act (a) physically harms a student or damages the student's property; (b) has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education; (c) is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment; OR (d) has the effect of substantially disrupting orderly operation of the school. Student need not actually possess a characteristic that is the basis of the harassment, intimidation, or bullying.
West Virginia	W. Va. Code Ann. §§ 18-2C-2, 2C-3.	Harassment, intimidation, or bullying: any intentional gesture, or any electronic, written, verbal, or physical act, communication, transmission or threat that (1) a reasonable person should know will have the effect of any one or more of the following: (a) physically harming a student; (b) damaging a student's property; (c) placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to his person; (d) placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to his property; (2) is sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates an intimidating, threatening or emotionally abusive educational environment for a student; OR (3) disrupts or interferes with orderly operations of the school. Required components of county BOE policy include statement prohibiting harassment, intimidation or bullying of any student on school property, school busses and bus stops or at school sponsored events.
Wisconsin	Wis. Stat. Ann. § 118.46.	No definition in statute. State Department of Public Instruction model must include identification of school-related events, school property, vehicles to/on which bullying policy applies. State Department model (guidance only, may be adopted or modified or portions deleted by school district) defines bullying: deliberate or intentional behavior using words or actions, intended to cause fear, intimidation, or harm. May be repeated behavior and involve**s** an imbalance of power**.** May be motivated by actual or perceived distinguishing characteristic, such as (listed). Can be physical, verbal, indirect (spreading rumors, social exclusion, cyberbullying). Bullying behavior is prohibited in all schools, buildings, property and educational environments, including any property or vehicle owned, leased or used by the school district. This includes public transportation regularly used by students to go to and from school. Educational environments include, but are not limited to, every activity under school supervision.
Wyoming	WY Code Ann. § 21-4-312.	Harassment, intimidation or bullying: any intentional gesture, any intentional electronic communication or any intentional written, verbal or physical act initiated, occurring or received at school that a reasonable person under the circumstances should know will have the effect of: (A) harming a student physically or emotionally, damaging a student's property or placing a student in reasonable fear of harm or property damage; (B) insulting or demeaning a student or group of students causing substantial disruption in, or substantial interference with, the orderly operation of the school; OR (C) creating an intimidating, threatening

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	or abusive educational environment for a student(s) through sufficiently severe, persistent or pervasive behavior.

* BOE = Board of Education

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