

HOUSE BILL No. 1093

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 20-33-8; IC 20-34-6-3; IC 31-33-18-2.

Synopsis: Student bullying and abusive behavior. Revises the definition of "bullying". Requires each public school, including a charter school, to track, monitor, and analyze specified aspects of bullying, and provides that a parent of a student or a student, if the student is an emancipated minor, may submit a grievance to the school for a violation of this requirement. Requires each school corporation and charter school to: (1) document and track all acts of bullying and abusive behaviors for analysis; (2) prepare and implement interventions to deter and prevent bullying and abusive behaviors; and (3) compile, prepare, and submit an annual report beginning July 1, 2027, to the department of education, the state board of education, and the legislative council summarizing the information collected. Requires the state board of education to review the report and provide recommendations to certain schools to reduce the frequency of acts of bullying or abusive behaviors. Allows the department of child services to release unredacted reports to a school's designated liaison under certain circumstances.

Effective: July 1, 2026.

DeVon, Goss-Reaves

January 5, 2026, read first time and referred to Committee on Education.



Second Regular Session of the 124th General Assembly (2026)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 2025 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

HOUSE BILL No. 1093

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning education.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

- 1 SECTION 1. IC 20-33-8-0.2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.285-2013,
2 SECTION 5, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
3 JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 0.2. (a) As used in this chapter, "bullying" means
4 overt, unwanted ~~repeated~~ acts or gestures, including verbal or written
5 communications or images transmitted in any manner (including
6 digitally or electronically), physical acts committed, aggression, or any
7 other behaviors, that are committed by a **school staff member, a**
8 student, or **a** group of students against another student with the intent
9 to harass, ridicule, humiliate, intimidate, or harm the targeted student
10 and create for the targeted student an objectively hostile school
11 environment that:
12 (1) places the targeted student in reasonable fear of harm to the
13 targeted student's person or property;
14 (2) has a substantially detrimental effect on the targeted student's
15 physical or mental health;
16 (3) has the effect of substantially interfering with the targeted
17 student's academic performance; or



(4) has the effect of substantially interfering with the targeted student's ability to participate in or benefit from the services, activities, and privileges provided by the school.

(b) The term may not be interpreted to impose any burden or sanction on, or include in the definition of the term, the following:

(1) Participating in a religious event.

(2) Acting in an emergency involving the protection of a person or property from an imminent threat of serious bodily injury or substantial danger.

(3) Participating in an activity consisting of the exercise of a student's rights protected under the First Amendment to the United States Constitution or Article I, Section 31 of the Constitution of the State of Indiana, or both.

(4) Participating in an activity conducted by a nonprofit or governmental entity that provides recreation, education, training, or other care under the supervision of one (1) or more adults.

(5) Participating in an activity undertaken at the prior written direction of the student's parent.

(6) Engaging in interstate or international travel from a location outside Indiana to another location outside Indiana.

SECTION 2. IC 20-33-8-36 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 36. (a) Each public school, including a charter school, shall:**

(1) track the acts of bullying and abusive behaviors against a victim;

(2) monitor supports for the victim;

(3) track the acts of an alleged perpetrator who is exhibiting bullying or abusive behaviors, including written, verbal, physical, and sexual forms of abusive behavior and cyberbullying (as defined in IC 20-19-3-11.5(a)); and

(4) analyze the information collected under subdivisions (1) and (3) to help determine an appropriate intervention plan that must be provided to another public school if the alleged perpetrator transfers to the other public school.

(b) A parent of a student or a student, if the student is an emancipated minor, may submit a grievance to the public school or charter school that the student attends for a violation of subsection (a).

(c) Each public school, including a charter school, shall establish and maintain a procedure for the resolution of a grievance under this section.



SECTION 3. IC 20-34-6-3 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: **Sec. 3. (a) Each school corporation and charter school shall, for each school year, do the following:**

(1) Document and track all acts of bullying (as defined in 20-33-8-0.2) and abusive behaviors regarding:

(A) a victim of bullying; and

(B) an alleged perpetrator exhibiting bullying or abusive behaviors, including written, verbal, physical, and sexual forms of abusive behavior and cyberbullying (as defined in IC 20-19-3-11.5(a)).

(2) Use the documentation and tracking described in subdivision (1) to identify:

(A) the frequency and type of bullying or abusive behaviors within the school corporation or charter school; and

(B) students who may be at high risk of being a victim or alleged perpetrator of bullying or abusive behavior.

(3) Prepare and implement targeted interventions to deter and prevent bullying and abusive behaviors with regard to victims or alleged perpetrators.

(b) Beginning July 1, 2027, and not later than July 1 of each year thereafter, each school corporation and charter school shall do the following:

(1) Compile and prepare a report that summarizes the information under subsection (a), including the prepared and implemented interventions described in subsection (a)(3). The report must provide summaries for each school corporation and charter school, but may not contain any personal, identifiable information of any individual.

(2) Submit the report described in subdivision (1) to the following:

(A) The department.

(B) The state board.

(C) The legislative council in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6.

(c) On or before August 1, 2027, and not later than August 1 of each year thereafter, the state board shall:

(1) review the report described in subsection (b);

(2) identify school corporations or charter schools with the most frequent acts of bullying or abusive behaviors; and

(3) provide tailored recommendations to each school



corporation or charter school identified under subdivision (2) to reduce the frequency of acts of bullying or abusive behaviors.

SECTION 4. IC 31-33-18-2, AS AMENDED BY P.L.54-2024, SECTION 4, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2026]: Sec. 2. Except as otherwise prohibited by federal law, the reports and other material described in section 1(a) of this chapter and the unredacted reports and other material described in section 1(b) of this chapter shall be made available only to the following:

- (1) Persons authorized by this article.
- (2) A legally mandated public or private child protective agency investigating a report of child abuse or neglect or treating a child or family that is the subject of a report or record.
- (3) Any of the following who are investigating a report of a child who may be a victim of child abuse or neglect:
 - (A) A police officer or other law enforcement agency.
 - (B) A prosecuting attorney.
 - (C) A coroner, in the case of the death of a child.
- (4) A physician who has before the physician a child whom the physician reasonably suspects may be a victim of child abuse or neglect.
- (5) An individual legally authorized to place a child in protective custody if:
 - (A) the individual has before the individual a child whom the individual reasonably suspects may be a victim of abuse or neglect; and
 - (B) the individual requires the information in the report or record to determine whether to place the child in protective custody.
- (6) An agency having the legal responsibility or authorization to care for, treat, or supervise a child who is the subject of a report or record or a parent, guardian, custodian, or other person who is responsible for the child's welfare.
- (7) An individual named in the report or record who is alleged to be abused or neglected or, if the individual named in the report is a child or is otherwise incompetent, the individual's guardian ad litem or the individual's court appointed special advocate, or both.
- (8) Each parent, guardian, custodian, or other person responsible for the welfare of a child named in a report or record and an attorney of the person described under this subdivision, with protection for the identity of reporters and other appropriate individuals.



(9) A court, for redaction of the record in accordance with section 1.5 of this chapter, or upon the court's finding that access to the records may be necessary for determination of an issue before the court. However, except for disclosure of a redacted record in accordance with section 1.5 of this chapter, access is limited to in camera inspection unless the court determines that public disclosure of the information contained in the records is necessary for the resolution of an issue then pending before the court.

(10) A grand jury upon the grand jury's determination that access to the records is necessary in the conduct of the grand jury's official business.

(11) An appropriate state or local official responsible for child protection services or legislation carrying out the official's official functions.

(12) The community child protection team appointed under IC 31-33-3 (or IC 31-6-11-14 before its repeal), upon request, to enable the team to carry out the team's purpose under IC 31-33-3.

(13) A person about whom a report has been made, with protection for the identity of:

(A) any person reporting known or suspected child abuse or neglect; and

(B) any other person if the person or agency making the information available finds that disclosure of the information would be likely to endanger the life or safety of the person.

(14) An employee of the department, a caseworker, or a juvenile probation officer conducting a criminal history check under IC 31-26-5, IC 31-34, or IC 31-37 to determine the appropriateness of an out-of-home placement for a:

(A) child at imminent risk of placement;

(B) child in need of services; or

(C) delinquent child.

The results of a criminal history check conducted under this subdivision must be disclosed to a court determining the placement of a child described in clauses (A) through (C).

(15) A local child fatality review team established under IC 16-49-2.

(16) The statewide child fatality review committee established by IC 16-49-4.

(17) The department.

(18) The division of family resources, if the investigation report:

(A) is classified as substantiated; and

(B) concerns:



- 1 (i) an applicant for a license to operate;
- 2 (ii) a person licensed to operate;
- 3 (iii) an employee of; or
- 4 (iv) a volunteer providing services at;
- 5 a child care center licensed under IC 12-17.2-4 or a child care
- 6 home licensed under IC 12-17.2-5.
- 7 (19) A citizen review panel established under IC 31-25-2-20.4.
- 8 (20) The department of child services ombudsman established by
- 9 IC 4-13-19-3.
- 10 (21) The secretary of education with protection for the identity of:
- 11 (A) any person reporting known or suspected child abuse or
- 12 neglect; and
- 13 (B) any other person if the person or agency making the
- 14 information available finds that disclosure of the information
- 15 would be likely to endanger the life or safety of the person.
- 16 (22) The state child fatality review coordinator employed by the
- 17 Indiana department of health under IC 16-49-5-1.
- 18 (23) A person who operates a child caring institution, group
- 19 home, or secure private facility if all the following apply:
- 20 (A) The child caring institution, group home, or secure private
- 21 facility is licensed under IC 31-27.
- 22 (B) The report or other materials concern:
- 23 (i) an employee of;
- 24 (ii) a volunteer providing services at; or
- 25 (iii) a child placed at;
- 26 the child caring institution, group home, or secure private
- 27 facility.
- 28 (C) The allegation in the report occurred at the child caring
- 29 institution, group home, or secure private facility.
- 30 (24) A person who operates a child placing agency if all the
- 31 following apply:
- 32 (A) The child placing agency is licensed under IC 31-27.
- 33 (B) The report or other materials concern:
- 34 (i) a child placed in a foster home licensed by the child
- 35 placing agency;
- 36 (ii) a person licensed by the child placing agency to operate
- 37 a foster family home;
- 38 (iii) an employee of the child placing agency or a foster
- 39 family home licensed by the child placing agency; or
- 40 (iv) a volunteer providing services at the child placing
- 41 agency or a foster family home licensed by the child placing
- 42 agency.



- 1 (C) The allegations in the report occurred in the foster family
 2 home or in the course of employment or volunteering at the
 3 child placing agency or foster family home.
- 4 (25) The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.
- 5 (26) A local domestic violence fatality review team established
 6 under IC 12-18-8, as determined by the department to be relevant
 7 to the death or near fatality that the local domestic violence
 8 fatality review team is reviewing.
- 9 (27) The statewide domestic violence fatality review committee
 10 established under IC 12-18-9-3, as determined by the department
 11 to be relevant to the death or near fatality that the statewide
 12 domestic violence fatality review committee is reviewing.
- 13 (28) The statewide maternal mortality review committee
 14 established under IC 16-50-1-3, as determined by the department
 15 to be relevant to the case of maternal morbidity or maternal
 16 mortality that the statewide maternal mortality review committee
 17 is reviewing.
- 18 (29) A local fetal-infant mortality review team established under
 19 IC 16-49-6, as determined by the department to be relevant to the
 20 case of fetal or infant fatality that the local fetal-infant mortality
 21 review team is reviewing.
- 22 (30) A suicide and overdose fatality review team established
 23 under IC 16-49.5-2, as determined by the department to be
 24 relevant to the case of a suicide or overdose fatality that the
 25 suicide and overdose fatality review team is reviewing.
- 26 (31) The office of administrative law proceedings for a matter that
 27 is the subject of an administrative proceeding before the office of
 28 administrative law proceedings.
- 29 (32) A tribal representative, agency, or organization authorized by
 30 the Indian child's tribe to care for, diagnose, treat, review,
 31 evaluate, or monitor active efforts regarding an Indian child, and
 32 the Indian child's parent, guardian, or custodian.
- 33 (33) The United States Department of State and foreign
 34 governments to comply with federal law and treaties.
- 35 (34) A child advocacy center when the child advocacy center has
 36 before it an investigation of child abuse or neglect in which it is
 37 facilitating a forensic interview or facilitating a case discussion or
 38 case review.
- 39 **(35) A liaison designated by a school if the:**
 40 **(A) school's personnel reported the alleged abuse or**
 41 **neglect; and**
 42 **(B) child is at risk of:**



- 1 (i) harming themselves;
- 2 (ii) harming a peer; or
- 3 (iii) being harmed by a peer;
- 4 while the child is attending the school.

