



California AB 86 Assembly Bill – Cyberbullying

The new law will give schools authority to suspend or expel students for bullying fellow students over the Internet, in text-messaging or by other electronic means. Assembly Bill 86 adds cyberbullying to school disciplinary codes that previously defined bullying only in terms of direct physical or verbal harassment.

California Education Code 48900 was amended by Assembly Bill 86, effective Jan 1, 2009.

AB 86 specifies that bullying, as used in the Interagency School Safety Demonstration Act of 1985, includes acts that constitute sexual harassment, hate violence, or severe or pervasive intentional harassment, threats, or intimidation and that are committed personally or by means of an electronic communications device or system. Provides grounds for school officials to suspend a pupil or recommend a pupil for expulsion for bullying, including bullying by electronic act.

Note: This legislation may affect your Safe School Plan and/or your Acceptable Use Policy.

Grounds for suspension or expulsion amended to include bullying by electronic means:

- While on school grounds
- While going to or coming from school
- During the school lunch period whether on or off campus
- During or while going to/coming from a school activity

The California Department of Education (CDE) and the Office of the Attorney General co-administer the School/Law Enforcement Partnership program. This new law empowers the School Law Enforcement Partnership to expand their in-service programs to include cyberbullying, as well as bullying awareness and prevention training.

CTAP Region IV partners with School/Law Enforcement for all trainings in this area.

CTAP Cybersafety Project

<http://www.ctap4.net/projects/cybersafety.html>