UPDATE: Prevention Bullying, Intimidation and Harassment and Increasing Student Knowledge on Mental Health and Youth Suicide

2013

Authorizing legislation: RCW 28A.300.2851

Secondary Education and Student Support
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Executive Summary

The Anti-HIB Work Group has been meeting since Fall 2011. The group’s priority and charge is to help maintain focus and attention on, as well as monitor progress toward, implementation of harassment, intimidation and bullying (HIB) prevention and intervention efforts in districts across the state. Since the time of its last report, the Work Group has been continued to address the nine specific tasks assigned by the Legislature.
Background
The Anti-HIB Work Group began meeting in September 2011. After a series of initial meetings in 2011, smaller subgroups were established to begin to address the nine tasks identified in legislation. The full work group met quarterly during 2012. Subgroups addressed their tasks between full work group meetings. In the spring of 2013, the work group determined that it would meet monthly and would address the nine tasks, in turn. This report will highlight the accomplishments of the work group to date.

Update Status
For purposes of this report, the nine legislated tasks will be identified and progress will be reported. The nine areas will be identified using abbreviated titles. More detailed information on the work group and the nine areas can be found on the Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Work Group page within the Bullying and Harassment Toolkit website.

a. Data collection: After consideration of current available data on HIB across Washington State, two additional questions will be added into the upcoming Healthy Youth Survey (HYS) on bullying. In addition, the work group is recommending the following additional data points be considered for collection in the Comprehensive Education Data and Research System (CEDARS): 1) Collect the reason or basis for an HIB incident. 2) Collect the mode or type of an HIB incident. 3) Expand available values for Intervention Applied. 4) Allow discipline events to have up to two Behavior Codes. 5) Link targeted students to bullying incidents. 6) Track staff time spent addressing discipline issues.

b. Anonymous Reporting: Several districts and schools currently employ either phone or email systems for anonymous reporting of HIB. One such example is School Messenger. In addition, schools also often employ internal “drop box” systems.

c. Curriculum and Best Practice/Climate-Interventions: The Bullying and Harassment Toolkit was created to facilitate access to best practice Program and Curriculum Resources.

d. Curriculum and Best Practice/Mental Health-Suicide-HIB Prevention: The Bullying and Harassment Toolkit provide resources to districts and schools for planning and implementation and for program and curriculum resources. These include suggestions for suicide prevention curricula. In addition, the School Safety Center includes a separate page of resources to address Youth Suicide Prevention and Intervention.

In addition, House Bill 1336, Troubled Youth in schools (2013), also specifically requires a task force to address mental health and suicide prevention. The Anti-HIB Work Group is collaborating and participating with the 1336 Task Force to further develop and augment earlier work. Both the currently posted materials and the 1336 collaboration use and build on the work developed by the Youth Suicide Prevention Program funded through this legislation in the 2012–2013 biennium.
e. **Informing Parents:** The Parent and Family Resources section of the Bullying and Harassment Toolkit provides resources for families and parents around HIB.

f. **Training/Compliance Officers:** In addition to the materials available on the Training Materials page of the Bullying and Harassment Toolkit, a series of training sessions has begun for HIB Compliance Officers. These training are offered at ESDs across the state. By the date of this report, four ESD sessions will have taken place. The first training sessions include crucial conversations on the duties and functions of the role of HIB Compliance Officers. Compliance officer feedback will inform a second series of trainings.

g. **Training/Educator Preparation:** Initial conversations have taken place between OSPI and the Professional Education Standards Board. Conversations focused on what, how and when pre-service training might take place.

h. **Discipline:** Initial work to examine and recommend discipline policies has begun. In the interim, [Senate Bill 5946](http://example.com) (strengthening student educational outcomes), was passed into law in the 2013 Legislative session. A portion of this bill directly addresses student discipline. The work around SB 5946 will also inform HIB discipline policies and data collection.

i. **K–12 Students on Higher Ed Campuses:** Higher education policies around bullying and harassment have been gathered. However, work with higher education staff has not taken place.

**Conclusion and Next Steps**

Critical work is being done. The Anti-HIB Work Group continues to work on the nine tasks mandated by the legislation. Results of that work are posted on the [work group](http://example.com) section of the Bullying and Harassment (HIB) Toolkit page of the [School Safety Center](http://example.com) website. In coordination with districts, agencies and other partners, OSPI will continue to provide training and online resources for compliance officers and other district and school staff.

The work group is currently staffed within existing resources at OSPI. But to realize additional progress toward HIB efforts, and to implement some of the work group’s recommendations in districts, it recommends the following:

1. **Compliance Officers:** Provide funding to districts to support HIB Compliance Officers to perform required duties in every district.

2. **Training:** Provide funding for training opportunities and materials for HIB Compliance Officers. Create a cadre of HIB, and mental health/suicide prevention experts across all nine ESDs. Provide funding for district and school level staff, and families in all areas of HIB prevention and intervention.
3. **Materials:** Provide funding for purchase of classroom and staff training materials for best-practice HIB and mental health/suicide prevention and intervention program implementation.

4. **OSPI Staff:** Provide funding for OSPI supervisory and support staff to support the work of the Anti-HIB Work Group, to train, and to continue the work of HIB prevention and intervention.

5. **Work Group:** Provide funding for staff support, materials and travel allowances for participating members.
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