



# Implementing Bullying Prevention in Schools: Boston's Story

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# Your Work with Bullying



# Bullying



Ed Donnelly  
Senior Technical Assistance  
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**Bully Hotline**  
**617-592-2378**

**Boston Public Schools**



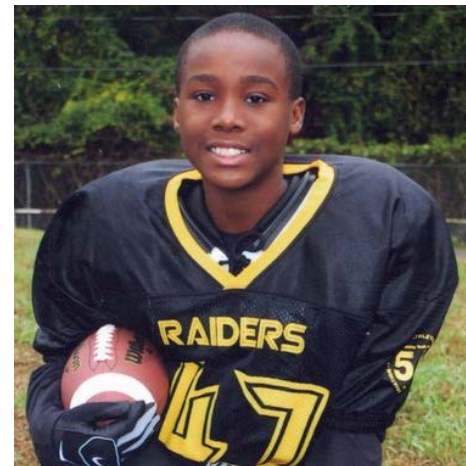
# Bullying is Against the Law

**On May 3, 2010**

Governor Deval Patrick signed the Bully Prevention and Intervention Law, joining 42 other states with similar legislation.



**Phoebe Prince**



**Carl Joseph Walker-Hoover**



# Bullying Prevention and Intervention Law

## Six Components:

1. All school districts must have a bullying prevention policy.
2. All school personnel must participate in bullying prevention and intervention professional development.
3. Each school must have a bullying prevention and intervention plan.



# Bullying Prevention and Intervention Law

4. Grades K-12 must embed bullying prevention messages in its curriculum.
5. All schools must have a procedure for reporting bullying.
6. If a student's disability makes the student vulnerable to bullying, harassment, or teasing, the student's IEP must help develop the student's skills and proficiencies to avoid and respond to bullying.



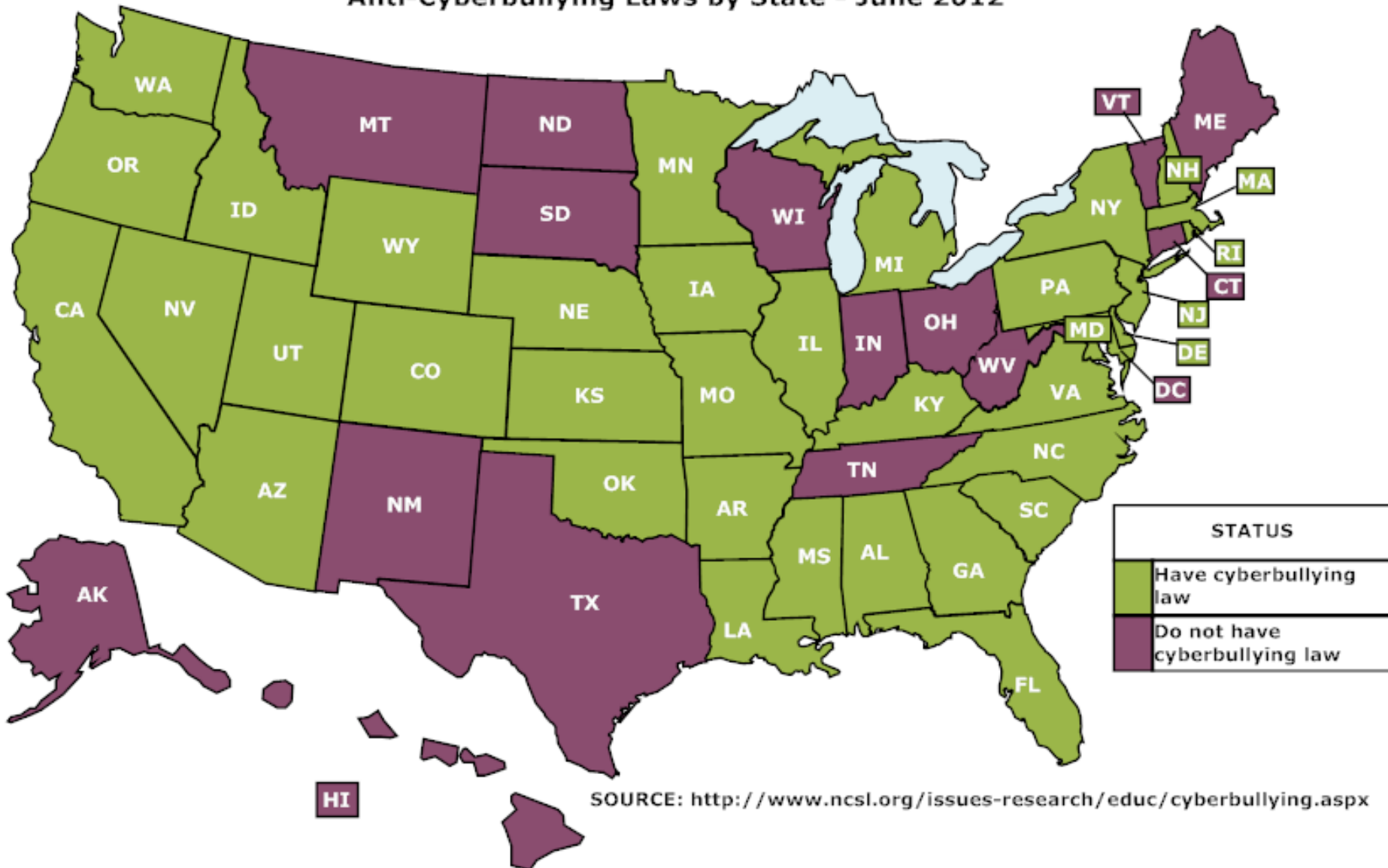
# Spirit of the Law

All children no matter their race, creed, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, physical or mental abilities have an inherent right to an education free of any form of bullying. It is our responsibility as school personnel to ensure this right.





## Anti-Cyberbullying Laws by State - June 2012



SOURCE: <http://www.ncsl.org/issues-research/educ/cyberbullying.aspx>



**In Massachusetts, there is no crime of “bullying”; but the acts that comprise an “incident” of bullying may be a crime.**



# Current Massachusetts Laws

- **Assault, G.L. c. 265, s 13A**
- **Assault and Battery, G.L. c. 265, s 13A**
- **Assault and Battery with a Dangerous Weapon, G.L. c. 265, s 15A**
- **Assault with a Dangerous Weapon, G.L. c. 265, s 15B**
- **Violation of Constitutional Rights, G.L. c. 265, s 37**
- **Assault or Battery for Purpose of Intimidation, G.L. c. 265, s 39**
- **Stalking, G.L. c. 265, s 43**
- **Criminal Harassment, G.L. c. 265, s 43A**
- **Identity Fraud, G.L. c. 266, s 37E**
- **Destruction of Place of Worship etc., G.L. c. 266, s 127A (schools and educational facilities are covered under the statute as well)**
- **Annoying Telephone Calls, G.L. c. 269, s 14A**
- **Hazing, G.L. c. 269, s 17**
- **Disturbance of School Assembly, G.L. c. 272, s 40**
- **Threats, G.L. c. 275, s 2**
- **Dissemination of harmful material to a minor, G.L. c. 272, s 28**



# **MATTAHUNT STARS**

**SAY, "STOP THE BULLYING!"**

Tell a teacher

Tell your parents

Call if you need help!

Bully Hotline: 617-592-2378

**BE A STAR!**





# Embedding Bullying Prevention in Core Curriculum





# **Bullying Prevention A Guide for Parents of Students with Disabilities**



# Reporting Requirements

All staff members must report **any** bullying and harassment allegations.

The district will investigate **all** allegations of bullying and harassment.

Principal/Headmaster of each building will be responsible for handling **all** complaints.





# Effectively Dealing with Bullying

- Act on bullying reports immediately.
- Assure targets (if they are known) that school personnel will follow up on reports, and take appropriate action.
- Do not blame the target.
- Parental involvement prior to bullying issues.
- Support parents' efforts to teach children good social skills.
- Provide early intervention.
- Balance discipline with behavioral supports.
- Equip teachers and staff with prevention and intervention skills.



# Questions?

Contact Ed Donnelly: [edonnelly@edc.org](mailto:edonnelly@edc.org)

Contact Ellen Schmidt: [eschmidt@edc.org](mailto:eschmidt@edc.org)

[www.ChildrensSafetyNetwork.org](http://www.ChildrensSafetyNetwork.org)