

HB 829 -- School Bullying

Sponsor: Weter

Currently, the provisions regarding school bullying prohibit a school district policy on bullying from listing protected classes of students. This bill removes that prohibition and revises the definition of "bullying" as it relates to a district's antibullying policy by adding any action that would qualify as a hate crime under Section 577.035, RSMo, or any discriminatory action or environment prohibited under certain specified sections of the federal Title IX Education Amendments of 1972. The policy must be included in the student handbook.

A school district's antibullying policy must require that a student report any instance of bullying that he or she has observed, been involved in, or has firsthand knowledge of. The district's administrators must notify the parents or guardians of a student allegedly responsible for a bullying incident as well as a student who is the target of an incident. Students subject to continuous bullying must be informed by the district of additional remedies.