

## SB18-151 Executive Summary

Concerning the Department of Education research to develop anti-bullying policies

### **Why is it needed?**

Ashawnty Davis, a fifth grader from Aurora, took her own life after a combination of bullying at school and online. Ensuring school districts have the resources they need to provide anti-bully training and preventative education, while maintaining accountability so students may feel and be safe while in school, should be a pillar of education policy in Colorado.

The Department of Education will be best equipped for this task because of the broad scope that bullying can encompass. The Department already has an FTE in this area, and that individual can do this work within their existing duties.

### **Other states with similar laws?**

Colorado is one of eight states without model policies. Model policies provide state guidance, direction, and recommended standards to help local school systems create their own district and school policies or administrative regulations. Model policies may be developed based on requirements of state or federal laws.

**South Carolina:** S.C. Code Ann. § 59-63-140 (F) (2009): "Schools and school districts are encouraged to establish bullying prevention programs and other initiatives involving school staff, students, administrators, volunteers, parents, law enforcement, and community members."

**Alabama:** Ala. Code § 16.28B.5 (2010): "The model policy, at a minimum, shall contain all of the following components: . . . [4] A series of graduated consequences for any student who commits an act of intimidation, harassment, violence or threats of violence. Punishment shall conform with applicable federal and state disability, antidiscrimination, and education laws and school discipline policies."

**Illinois:** 105 Ill. Comp. Stat. Ann. 5/27-23.7(d) (2010): "The policy must be updated every 2 years and filed with the State Board of Education after being updated. The State Board of Education shall monitor the implementation of policies created under [this subsection of the statute]"

### **Benefits:**

This is one way Colorado can provide our state agencies with the best path to serve citizens.

### **Potential concerns:**

N/A

### **Fiscal impact:**

N/A