

1 VIRGINIA ACTS OF ASSEMBLY — CHAPTER

2 An Act to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 22.1-279.6:1, relating to private  
3 elementary and secondary schools; student codes of conduct; policies relating to bullying and  
4 cyberbullying prevention and parental notification; requirements.

5 [S 341]  
6 Approved

7 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**

8 **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 22.1-279.6:1 as follows:**

9 **§ 22.1-279.6:1. Private elementary and secondary schools; codes of student conduct; bullying**  
10 **prevention and intervention; requirements.**

11 A. Each principal, headmaster, or other chief administrator of each private elementary or secondary  
12 school in the Commonwealth shall include in such school's policies for codes of student conduct procedures  
13 for addressing and handling instances of bullying and cyberbullying. Such policies and procedures shall (i)  
14 be consistent with applicable state, federal, and case laws; (ii) include policies and procedures relating to  
15 ensuring school personnel are trained in or informed of the appropriate management of student conduct and  
16 student offenses that violate school policies; and (iii) include policies designed to reduce bias and  
17 harassment in the enforcement of any code of student conduct. Such policies may be developed in accordance  
18 with the guidelines and model policies established by the Board pursuant to subsection A of § 22.1-279.6.

19 B. Each principal, headmaster, or other chief administrator of each private elementary or secondary  
20 school in the Commonwealth shall include in such school's code of student conduct policies and procedures  
21 that include a prohibition against bullying. Such policies and procedures shall, at a minimum, (i) require  
22 notification to the parent of any student involved in a confirmed incident of bullying within 24 hours of  
23 confirming the incident of bullying; (ii) include prohibitions against and procedures for addressing instances  
24 of cyberbullying that occur between students enrolled in such school; (iii) provide protections designed to  
25 ensure that any student who is a victim of or a witness to bullying or cyberbullying is not deterred from  
26 reporting or seeking support by fear of retaliation; and (iv) include prohibitions against hazing, as that term  
27 is defined in § 18.2-56. Nothing in this section shall be construed to preclude a private elementary or  
28 secondary school in the Commonwealth from adopting policies and procedures that are more comprehensive  
29 than the policies and procedures required pursuant to this section.