

November 25, 2021

**Memorandum to:** Chairs of District School Boards  
Directors of Education  
School Authorities

**From:** Stephen Lecce  
Minister of Education

Nancy Naylor  
Deputy Minister

**Subject:** **Revised Policy/Program Memorandum No.144 –  
Bullying Prevention and Intervention**

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Bullying remains a serious concern faced by many students in Ontario and can be deeply harmful to those who experience it. Today, the Ministry of Education announced a strengthened [Policy/Program Memorandum No. 144 – Bullying Prevention and Intervention \(PPM 144\)](#). This updated guidance will further support school boards in addressing bullying and help to create safer schools for all students.

Schools are well-positioned to combat various forms of bullying. The *Education Act* requires school boards to have policies and guidelines on bullying prevention and intervention. The updated PPM provides streamlined direction to boards in carrying out this obligation so that all students can realize safe and respectful schools that support positive learning outcomes.

Key revisions have been made to PPM 144 in order to:

- 1) Enhance the description of bullying and cyberbullying
- 2) Emphasize the role of parents/guardians in bullying prevention and intervention
- 3) Align with the Ministry of Education’s work on equity, school codes of conduct, progressive student discipline, the handling of violent student incidents and the combatting of sex trafficking.
- 4) Require boards to monitor and track reported incidences of bullying and cyberbullying to inform bullying prevention and intervention planning
- 5) Ensure alignment of policies related to suspensions and expulsions with [Ontario Regulation 440/20](#): Suspension of Elementary School Pupils.

The revised PPM provides provincially funded school boards, school authorities, and provincial and demonstration schools with guidance on how to respond to various forms of bullying. It provides clear direction on developing and reviewing plans, policies and guidelines on bullying prevention and intervention, and instruction on the necessary components that must be incorporated in each school board’s bullying prevention and intervention policy.

School boards should update their policies so that they are in place by September 1, 2022.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to the safety, health, and well-being of students in Ontario.

Sincerely,

Stephen Lecce  
Minister

Nancy Naylor  
Deputy Minister

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