



New Texas law helps with bullying

By: [FOX4News.com Staff](#)

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EL PASO, Texas - Texas teachers have a new tool to help fight bullying. The new law known as David's Law gives them more authority over students.

The educators are taking their fight against bullying off campus and online. In the past, schools only handled bullying on campus. Now they can discipline students for messages they send sitting in their own bedroom.

"If anything occurs outside the school setting, but it interferes with the educational environment of the student during the school day, even though it occurred outside school hours, it can be addressed," said Manuel Castruita, the director of counseling at El Paso ISD.

The law requires administrators to inform parents of victims and bullies about incidents. And districts must create a policy to reporting bullying and how students can get counseling.

Castruita said before David's Law, a school would need to gather evidence to prove a student had been bullied. In other words, they would need to build a case.

Now all they need is a single insulting message or slur.

"As students engage in behaviors, whether they're appropriate or not, many times they're not realizing the consequences that can come with that," Castruita said.

Some parents say they're in favor of the bill as long as administrators don't interfere with their parental rights.

"I don't want my child to be bullied when she's at home and have to miss school because they're sending her messages through the internet or social media," said Hugo Jaramillo, the parent of a middle school student.

One grandmother who raises her grandson said in some cases the school may need to intervene because the parents might be the problem.

"The kids mimic what they see at home," Sandra Negrette said.

Negrette's grandson, Orlando Martinez, admits he's been both the victim and the bully. The bill makes telling a student to hurt or kill themselves a misdemeanor, which he supports.

"There's some kids out there that are at a breaking point and once somebody says to go kill themselves, that's what they do," he said.

The El Paso school district said it has already addressed dozens of bullying cases using the law.

<http://www.fox4news.com/news/texas/new-texas-law-helps-with-bullying>



Cybersafe

How cyberbullying impacts a child's self image

Doctor's say today's kids face challenges not seen 20 years ago

By: TIM SEAMAN

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SIOUX CITY, Iowa - The start of another school year can mean stress filled days for students. Especially those targeted by bullies. In this weeks CyberSafe Parent report, why online technology can mean instantaneous harassment that never seems to go away.

Twenty years ago if a student got picked on, the harassment didn't last long. Kids were riding their bike home having dinner and the next day nobody remembered because social media wasn't there to remind folks.

But health professionals like Clinical Psychologist Dr. Raul Sanchez say today's kids face a different challenge.

"Today, if that happens, you're roasted for 24 hours if not 36 hours or more, and unless something huge happens, you're the story, and if that's negative and bad attention, you really start to believe it. And, that's the problem with many kids, they believe they are who others say they are," said Dr. Sanchez.

The doctor works with students and parents alike at Renewing the Mind Clinic. He says anxiety and depression rates for middle school students have both doubled in the last five years and what classmates are saying about each other online is partly to blame.

"I see my identity through the looking glass everyone else sees me through. So I know who I am because you told me who I am. And if it's negative it sticks and kids can't get rid of it," added Dr. Sanchez. The doctor says it's a case of you are vs I am.

So what can a parent do to make sure their child develops a good self image?

Encourage participation in multiple activities and don't follow the popular trend of being activity specific.

"If I'm good at band, and you rip on me for being bad at football, I can just say, "Dude, I'm first chair, get off of me." But if you don't have an identity and don't do well and you're roasting me, I have nowhere to fall," said Dr. Sanchez.

The doctor tells me keeping kids accountable is also important to building a good self image. We'll share why and pass along other important information he has for kids and parents alike in next week's report.

<https://www.siouxlandproud.com/cybersafe/how-cyberbullying-impacts-a-child-s-self-image/1377314841>