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GUIDANCE MEMORANDUM 25-15

TO: All Local Education Agencies

FROM: Dr. Victor Wakefield, Superintendent of Public Instruction 

DATE: 12/29/2025

SUBJECT: Discrimination Based Race, Bullying/Cyberbullying Screener

Purpose

The purpose of this guidance memo is to provide direction to school districts and charter schools on the implementation and use of the Statewide Bullying, Cyberbullying and Discrimination Based on Race Screener (the "Screener").

Background

The Screener was developed to support implementation of Assembly Amendment No.157 to Assembly Bill No.48 and revises provisions relating to bullying per NRS 388.1351.

Prior to AB 48, there was significant variation in how schools determined whether an incident met the legal definition of bullying, cyberbullying, or discrimination based on race. Some cases were dismissed prematurely, while others were inconsistently investigated. The screener was introduced to ensure that all allegations are evaluated using a standardized, evidence-based tool.

In essence, NRS 388.135 defines the "what" (what is prohibited), while NRS 388.1351 (AB 48) outlines the "how" (how schools must respond to reports of these prohibited behaviors, from initial screening to investigation, action, and follow-up). Amendment 157 of AB48 significantly enhances the initial response requirement within NRS 388.1351 to ensure immediate victim safety when a violation of NRS 388.135 is likely.

Scope and Applicability

This guidance applies to all public-school districts and charter schools implementing Statewide Bullying, Cyberbullying and Discrimination Based on Race Screener.

Definition and Purpose of the Screener

Purpose

To provide a standardized process for identifying, screening, and addressing bullying, cyberbullying, or discrimination based on race incidents in compliance with AB 48 and NRS 388.1351. The Screener is intended to support early identification of bullying, cyberbullying, and discrimination based on race

behaviors and experiences, promote consistent practices across districts, and strengthen prevention and response efforts. The Screener is not a disciplinary tool and does not replace required bullying investigations or complaint processes.

The Statewide Bullying Screener:

- It is a brief, standardized tool designed to identify potential bullying, cyberbullying, and discrimination based on race behaviors and experiences.
- Can be administered to students from K-12 grade levels or as determined by district policy.
- Supports fair treatment by establishing a clear, documented process to determine whether formal bullying, cyberbullying, and discrimination based on race investigation is warranted.
- Aims to improve student safety and trust in the system, supporting a more positive learning environment.

*The Screener **does not**:*

- Determine whether bullying, cyberbullying or discrimination based on race, as defined by law or district policy, has occurred.
- Replace formal bullying, cyberbullying or discrimination based on race reporting, investigation, or appeal procedures.
- Serve as a stand-alone basis for disciplinary action.

Administration Guidance

Screening is a quick, focused process to determine immediate safety and the **likelihood** of a violation of NRS 388.135. A full investigation is more formal and detailed, with specific requirements for interviews, notifications, and timelines. The investigation only begins if the screening suggests a likely violation, ensuring serious matters are addressed thoroughly without unnecessarily launching into a lengthy process.

Intake of Reports

- Incidents reported to the school administrator must be logged immediately upon receipt.
- Assess immediate risk to student safety.
- Review the submitted report and collect information that is sufficient to determine the next steps in the screening process.
- Complete the Screener.
- Timeline: Screening must be completed within 24-48 hours upon intake and should be a part of the five to seven-day period of overall bullying, cyberbullying or discrimination based on race investigation (if warranted) timeline.

Outcome

- Likely Violation of NRS 388.135: Initiate formal investigation.
- Unlikely Violation of NRS 388.135: Document and monitor, refer to school/district discipline policy to address the behavior.

Districts should follow local policies such as parental notification, school's written report on the outcome of the screening process, school's written report on the outcome of the formal investigation (as warranted), safety plans, etc. Reasonable accommodations must be provided to ensure accessibility for students with disabilities and multilingual learners.

Staff Roles and Responsibilities

Districts and Charter Schools must:

- Provide training for use of the Screener at the local level.
- Coordinate administration of the Screener.
- Ensure fidelity of implementation.
- Coordinate follow-up support, as appropriate.

Training and Technical Assistance

The Nevada Department of Education, Office for a Safe and Respectful Learning Environment (OSRLE), will provide training and technical assistance to support effective implementation of the Statewide Bullying, Cyberbullying, or Discrimination Based on Race Screener.

Supports will include:

- Implementation guidance and resources.
- Scheduled OSRLE office hours for questions and consultation.
- Online and asynchronous training in the use of the Screener.

Rollout Timeline and Effective Date

This guidance becomes effective upon issuance of this memo. Districts may begin implementation of the Screener following receipt of this guidance and completion of any required training.

Questions

For questions or technical assistance related to the Screener, please contact Dr. Rhodora Alonzo at rhodora.alonzo@doe.nv.gov