

A BILL

FOR

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE ANTI-BULLY STANDARDS IN SCHOOLS,
COLLEGES AND TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS AND FOR RELATED MATTERS,
2019

Sponsored by Hon. Chukwuma Umeoji

[] Commencement

ENACTED by the National Assembly of the Federal Republic of
Nigeria as follows-

1 1. As from the commencement of this Bill, all schools, colleges,
2 universities or institutions of higher learning, whether public or private,
3 shall Establish a standard to address the existence of bullying in their
4 respective institutions.

Regulations

5 (2) Such policy shall include but is not limited to the following
6 provisions:

7 (a) Process for addressing incidents of bullying in school;

8 (b) Anonymous reporting of acts of bullying to teachers and school
9 administrators, which shall not, by itself, be a ground for disciplinary action;

10 (c) Remedy which allows parents or guardians of students to file
11 written reports of suspected bullying;

12 (d) Provisions requiring teachers and other school staff who
13 witnessed acts of bullying or received report of bullying to report the same to
14 school administration;

15 (e). Provisions requiring school administrators to investigate any
16 reports on acts of bullying;

17 (f) Inclusion of language in student codes of conduct concerning
18 bullying;

19 (g) Notification of parents or guardians of students who committed
20 or are victims of acts of bullying; and

1 (h) Maintenance of a public record of relevant information and
2 statistics on acts of bullying in school, provided that the names of students who
3 committed acts of bullying shall be only made available to the school
4 administration, teachers directly responsible for the said students and parents
5 or guardians of students who are or have been victims of acts of bullying.

6 2. The Federal Ministry of Education shall in liaison with the all
7 relevant Educational Agencies / Stakeholders to:

8 The Federal Ministry of Education shall provide for sanctions to school
9 administrations who fail to comply with the requirements of this bill.

10 The Federal Ministry of Education shall also provide for recourse to students
11 who are victims of acts of bullying and/or their parents or guardians to compel
12 the school administration to act on their complaints on acts of bullying.

13 This Bill shall be without prejudice to other criminal, civil or administrative
14 remedies provided by law and shall not prevent the victims from availing of the
15 same independent of the remedies provided for in this bill.

16 3. Cyber-bullying is any act or conduct defined in Section 5 of this
17 bill which are made through electronic devices such as, but are not limited to
18 texting, instant messaging, chatting, Internet and social networking websites.

19 (2) For purposes of this Bill, the phrase "acts of bullying" shall include the acts
20 enumerated under Section 5 and Cyber-bullying as defined under this
21 Section.

22 4. Anti-bullying policies created pursuant to the provisions of this
23 bill shall be submitted to the relevant Agencies of the Federal Ministry of
24 Education within six (6) months from the coming into effect of this bill for
25 existing schools, colleges and universities, and shall be an administrative
26 requirement prior to the operation of new Schools, Colleges and
27 Universities.

28 5. In this Bill-

29 "Bullying" means when a minor student, commits a series of two or more acts
30 directed towards another minor student, or a series of single acts directed

1 towards several minor students in a school setting or a place of learning, with
2 the intent to constitute harassment, intimidation, force or humiliation. Such
3 acts consist of any or more of the following:

4 (a) Threats to a person with the infliction upon the person, honor or
5 property of the, person or of his family or any wrong;

6 (b) Stalking or constantly following or pursuing a person in his
7 daily activities with unwanted, obsessive attention;

8 (c) Theft;

9 (d) Public humiliation or public and malicious, imputation of a
10 crime or of a vice of defect, real or imaginary, or any act, omission,
11 condition, status, or circumstance tending to cause the dishonor, discredit or
12 contempt against a person;

13 (e) Deliberate destruction, defacement or damage of another's
14 property;

15 (f) Physical violence committed upon a minor, student, which may
16 or may not result to harm or injury, with or without the aid of, a weapon.
17 Such violence may be in the form of mauling, hitting, punching, kicking",
18 throwing things at a student, pinching, spanking, or other similar acts;

19 (g) Demanding, requesting or requiring sexual or monetary favors,
20 or demands property 6 from a minor student; and

21 (h) Restraining the liberty and freedom of a minor student.

22 6. This Bill may be cited as the Anti-Bullying School Policy Bill, Citation
23 2019.

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The Bill seeks to mandate and compel schools to create a policy to address the existence of bullying and cyber-bullying in their respective institutions.

