

# Bill 13, Accepting Schools Act, 2012

Broten, Hon Laurel C. *Minister of Education*

Current Status: Royal Assent received Chapter Number: S.O. 2012 C.5

## View the Bill

Bill 13

2012

An Act to amend the Education Act with respect to bullying and other matters

Note: This Act amends the *Education Act*. For the legislative history of the Act, see the Table of Consolidated Public Statutes – Detail at [www.e-Laws.gov.on.ca](http://www.e-Laws.gov.on.ca).

### Preamble

The people of Ontario and the Legislative Assembly:

Believe that education plays a critical role in preparing young people to grow up as productive, contributing and constructive citizens of Ontario;

Believe that all students should feel safe at school and deserve a positive school climate that is inclusive and accepting, regardless of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, marital status, family

Believe that a healthy, safe and inclusive learning environment where all students feel accepted is a necessary condition for student s

Understand that students cannot be expected to reach their full potential in an environment where they feel insecure or intimidated;

Believe that students need to be equipped with the knowledge, skills, attitude and values to engage the world and others critically, wh a critical consciousness that allows them to take action on making their schools and communities more equitable and inclusive fo LGBTTIQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, two-spirited, intersex, queer and questioning) people;

Recognize that a whole-school approach is required, and that everyone — government, educators, school staff, parents, students and — has a role to play in creating a positive school climate and preventing inappropriate behaviour, such as bullying, sexual assault, c and incidents based on homophobia, transphobia or biphobia;

Acknowledge that an open and ongoing dialogue among the principal, school staff, parents and students is an important componen school climate in which everyone feels safe and respected;

Acknowledge that there is a need for stronger action to create a safe and inclusive environment in all schools, and to support all st students who are impacted by and students who have engaged in inappropriate behavior, to assist them in developing healthy relati choices, continuing their learning and achieving success.

Therefore, Her Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of Ontario, enacts as follows:

1. (1) Subsection 1 (1) of the Education Act is amended by adding the following definition:

“bullying” means aggressive and typically repeated behaviour by a pupil where,

(a) the behaviour is intended by the pupil to have the effect of, or the pupil ought to know that the behaviour would be li effect of,

(i) causing harm, fear or distress to another individual, including physical, psychological, social or academic harm, harm to the or harm to the individual’s property, or

(ii) creating a negative environment at a school for another individual, and

(b) the behaviour occurs in a context where there is a real or perceived power imbalance between the pupil and the indi factors such as size, strength, age, intelligence, peer group power, economic status, social status, religion, ethnic origin, se family circumstances, gender, gender identity, gender expression, race, disability or the receipt of special education; (“intimid

- (2) Section 1 of the Act is amended by adding the following subsections:

### Bullying

(1.0.0.1) For the purposes of the definition of “bullying” in subsection (1), behaviour includes the use of any physical, verbal, elec means.