



**COLORADO**  
Department of Education

# HB 11-1254

## School Bullying Prevention and Education Grant 2017 Annual Report

Submitted to:

**The State Board of Education, House Education Committee and Senate Education Committee of the Colorado General Assembly**

By:

**The Colorado Department of Education**

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Student Learning Division/Teaching and Learning Unit/Office of Learning Supports  
1580 Logan Street, Suite 550., Denver, CO 80203  
303-866-6355  
collins\_a@cde.state.co.us



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## Introduction

In 2011, the Colorado General Assembly passed House Bill 11-1254, Concerning Measures to Reduce the Frequency of Bullying. The bill, in part, created the School Bullying Prevention and Education Grant (BPEG). The goal of the BPEG was to reduce the frequency of student bullying in Colorado public schools, district charter schools, institute charter schools, board of cooperative services schools, and facility schools. Though created in 2011, funds were not allocated for this grant until the passage of Proposition BB, the Colorado Marijuana TABOR Refund Measure, in 2015. Proposition BB allowed the state of Colorado to retain and spend marijuana tax dollars for school construction and other state programs, including the BPEG.

The State Board of Education (SBE) rules for the BPEG, in compliance with statute, require the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) to submit an annual report to the General Assembly on May 1 of each year. This report must include the number of grant recipients, the amount of each grant awarded, the average amount of each grant awarded, the number of pupils who are either enrolled at each public school of each grant recipient or receiving services through each facility school of each grant recipient, and the source and amount of each gift, grant, and any donations received by CDE for the implementation of the bullying prevention program pursuant to section 22-93-105 (3) (b), C.R.S.

## Grant Rules Passed by State Board of Education

### Background

Upon the funding of the BPEG, the SBE was required to promulgate the rules for administration of the grant program. Statute required the rules to include, but not be limited to

- the development of a website which makes continuously available evidence-based best practices in bullying prevention and education for educators and other professionals,
- application procedures,
- application scoring criteria,
- rules for the administration of a survey of students with questions about how frequently they witness and are the victim of bullying, and
- the date by which CDE shall annually submit a report of progress made on the grant.

### Progress of HB 11-1254

- **2011:** HB 11-1254 passed creating the BPEG
- **2015:** Proposition BB passed funding the BPEG
- **2016:** State Board of Education passed rules for the BPEG
- **2017:** Grants awarded to districts

### Grant Program Rules

Grant program rules addressed all of the required legislative requirements and provided for quality applications. Application criteria were developed by the SBE that included those required by HB 11-1254 as well as four additional items. These items included (1) the quality of the methods used to ensure sustainable implementation of the bullying prevention best practices, (2) the quality of the plan for including student leadership and voice, (3) the rigor with which grantees will monitor the implementation of the evidence-based bullying prevention best practices, and (4) the cost associated with the evidence-based bullying prevention best practices.

Also, related to survey administration, the rules give grantees the option to administer the annual survey via paper-and-pencil or electronically. An opt-in procedure for parents/guardians and students for any surveys

related to the grant was also added into the rules of the grant. Grantees are required annually to submit a report to CDE including the following:

- Evidence-based best practices in bullying prevention that the applicant(s) implemented using the grant moneys.
- Number and grade levels of students who participated in each of the bullying prevention practices or services provided.
- Progress made by the participating public schools, facility schools, and collaborative groups of public schools and facility schools in
  - including family and community partnering in school bullying prevention strategies,
  - adopting specific policies concerning bullying education and prevention,
  - implementing the evidence-based best practices in bullying prevention with fidelity, and
  - reducing the frequency of bullying as indicated by school surveys and other relevant measures.

On May 12, 2016, the SBE approved the rules of the BPEG which allowed the department to develop a Request for Proposals for the grant program.

## Request for Proposals

### Background

The Request for Proposals (RFP) was developed using the SBE rules for guidance. An evaluation rubric was made with scores possible on five sections, (1) needs assessment, (2) program description, (3) policies and practices, (4) evaluation and reporting, and (5) budget narrative and electronic budget. These five sections adhered to the requirements of the grant as written in HB 11-1254 and the grant rules as passed by the SBE.

Several parameters were described in the RFP. First, the BPEG was designed to be implemented through a three-year grant cycle. Grantees can receive funds each year of the grant by submitting a continuation application that describes their progress and provides evidence of their fidelity to the program activities. Second, schools could receive a maximum of \$40,000 for each year of the grant. Applicants were not limited in the number of schools that could be included in their grant application. Thus, if a school district applied to the grant for three schools, they could potentially be funded for \$120,000 per year.



Times online news article about the BPEG.

With the public posting of the RFP, national and international media became aware of the BPEG. The local ABC affiliate news station ran a story on the grant which led to multiple media outlets reporting on how the state of Colorado would soon be using additional marijuana tax revenues to prevent bullying in schools. Several of the outlets that mentioned the BPEG included



AOL News, Colorado Public Radio, the International Business Times, National Public Radio, Time, Teen Vogue, and Yahoo News.

### Applications

A total of 23 applications were submitted from 16 school districts, including the Charter School Institute (CSI) and South Central-BOCES (SC-BOCES), representing 76 schools. An external review process resulted in four applications being rejected due to low scores. Of the 19 remaining applications, two were subsequently removed from consideration for funding because required revisions to their applications were not completed.

A total of 32 districts representing 167 schools indicated their interest in applying for the Bullying Prevention and Education Grant by submitting a Letter of Intent.

HB 11-1254 requires CDE to report the source of each gift, grant, and donation received for the implementation of the BPEG pursuant to section 22-93-105 (3) (b), C.R.S. CDE received two donations during the course of the reporting

period. The first donation was unsolicited and included the Bully-Proofing Your School curriculum given by publisher Sopris-West. The second donation was also unsolicited and included the Second Step – Bullying Prevention Unit curriculum given by publisher Committee for Children.

### Awarded Grantees

Seventeen applications were funded by the BPEG. These grantees represent the first cohort of the BPEG in the three-year grant cycle. The grantees come from 14 school districts, including the CSI and SC-BOCES, and represent 73 schools. Figure 1 illustrates the geographic distribution of grantees.

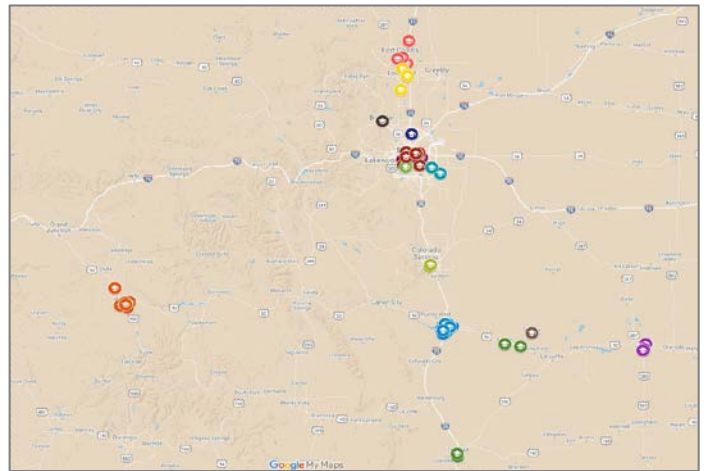


Figure 1. Location of schools awarded funds through the BPEG.

**73 Schools Received Grant Funding**

- 35 Elementary schools
- 22 Middle schools
- 9 High schools
- 5 Elementary/Middle schools
- 1 Middle/High school
- 1 K-12 school

The amount of money each grant recipient received can be found in Table 1. There was no limit placed on the number of schools that could be represented in an application or the number of applications that one local education agency could submit. As a result, some school districts submitted multiple applications representing different schools. Note that supplemental funds were provided each year to districts to attend mandatory CDE training related to the grant. For the first year of the grant, schools received an average of \$27,734.77.



**TABLE 1: Grant Funding for Each Grant Recipient by Year with Averages**

Local Education Agency	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Adams 12 Five Star Schools	\$24,275.00	\$25,300.00	\$25,380.00	\$74,955.00
Boulder Valley School District RE-2	\$40,735.00	\$33,669.00	\$35,200.00	\$109,604.00
Charter School Institute	\$39,752.00	\$67,355.00	\$68,244.00	\$175,351.00
Cherry Creek School District 5	\$51,236.00	\$75,802.00	\$75,802.00	\$202,840.00
Crowley County School District RE-1J	\$40,276.00	\$35,930.00	\$37,430.00	\$113,636.00
Denver Public Schools (Application 1)	\$41,500.00	\$40,570.00	\$40,570.00	\$122,640.00
Denver Public Schools (Application 2)	\$191,017.00	\$346,617.00	\$329,175.00	\$866,809.00
Denver Public Schools (Application 3)	\$41,222.00	\$40,467.00	\$40,467.00	\$122,156.00
Harrison School District 2 (Application 1)	\$41,150.00	\$40,120.00	\$38,220.00	\$119,490.00
Harrison School District 2 (Application 2)	\$41,488.00	\$27,133.00	\$23,708.00	\$92,329.00
Lamar School District RE-2	\$149,650.00	\$101,850.00	\$129,950.00	\$381,450.00
Montrose County School District RE-1J	\$172,413.00	\$97,511.00	\$97,511.00	\$367,435.00
Poudre School District	\$123,631.00	\$152,088.00	\$152,180.00	\$427,899.00
Pueblo City Schools District 60	\$862,674.00	\$633,020.00	\$770,020.00	\$2,265,714.00
Sheridan School District 2	\$31,628.00	\$40,570.00	\$40,570.00	\$112,768.00
South Central BOCES	\$166,875.00	\$202,850.00	\$202,850.00	\$572,575.00
Thompson School District	\$101,316.00	\$115,266.00	\$111,999.00	\$328,581.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,160,838.00</b>	<b>\$2,076,118.00</b>	<b>\$2,219,276.00</b>	<b>\$6,456,232.00</b>
<b>Average</b>	<b>\$127,108.12</b>	<b>\$122,124.59</b>	<b>\$130,545.65</b>	<b>\$379,778.35</b>

Table 2 displays the number of pupils who are enrolled at each grant recipient school. During the 2016-2017 school year, there are a total of 34,818 students who are enrolled at recipient schools. The enrollment numbers range from 56 students at Manzanola Elementary School in the Manzanola 3J School District, to 1,438 students at Fox Ridge Middle School, in the Cherry Creek School District. On average, each recipient school has just below 477 students



**TABLE 2: Number of Students at Each Recipient School**

District/School	Students	District/School	Students
<b>Adams 12 Five Star Schools</b>		Preston Middle School	1,154
Westgate Community School	818	Wellington Middle School	507
<b>Boulder Valley School District RE-2</b>		<b>Pueblo City Schools District 60</b>	
Columbine Elementary School	546	Belmont Elementary School	510
<b>Charter School Institute</b>		Bessemer Academy	303
New America School - Lakewood	281	Beulah Heights Elementary School	373
New America School - Lowry	477	Bradford Elementary School	388
<b>Cherry Creek School District 5</b>		Carlile Elementary School	276
Fox Ridge Middle School	1,438	Centennial High School	1,205
Horizon Middle School	953	Central High School	814
<b>Crowley County School District RE-1J</b>		Columbian Elementary School	390
Crowley County Primary	130	Corwin International Magnet School	650
<b>Denver Public Schools</b>		Eva R. Baca Elementary School	341
Bear Valley International	163	Fountain International Magnet School	400
Denver Discovery School	417	Franklin Elementary School	409
Eggleton Elementary School	415	Goodnight Elementary School	723
Hamilton Middle School	945	Haaff Elementary School	368
Hill Campus of Arts and Sciences	742	Heritage Elementary School	411
Lake International School	337	Heroes Academy	271
McAuliffe Manual Middle School	133	Highland Park Elementary School	509
Merrill Middle School	554	Irving Elementary School	402
Morey Middle School	225	Minnequa Elementary School	475
Skinner Middle School	606	Morton Elementary School	519
Stedman Elementary School	248	Park View Elementary School	465
<b>Harrison School District</b>		Pueblo Academy of Arts	682
Harrison High School	965	Roncalli STEM Academy	368
Mountain Vista Community School	616	South High School	1,174
<b>Lamar School District RE-2</b>		South Park Elementary School	349
Alta Vista Charter School	126	Sunset Park Elementary School	503
Lamar High School	421	<b>Sheridan School District 2</b>	
Lamar Middle School	339	Fort Logan Northgate	602
Parkview Elementary School	294	<b>South Central BOCES</b>	
Washington Elementary School	266	Fisher's Peak Elementary School	363
<b>Montrose County School District RE-1J</b>		Fowler Elementary School	204
Cottonwood Elementary School	453	Fowler Junior High School	65
Johnson Elementary School	577	Fowler High School	127
Northside Elementary School	344	Manzanola Elementary School	56
Oak Grove Elementary School	413	Manzanola Junior-Senior High School	73
<b>Olathe Elementary School</b>	419	Trinidad Middle School	236
Peak Virtual Academy	233	<b>Thompson School District</b>	
Pomona Elementary School	386	Berthoud High School	714
<b>Poudre Schools District</b>		Cottonwood Plains Elementary School	416
Blevins Middle School	583	High Plains School	391
Leshar Middle School	769	<b>Total</b>	<b>34,818</b>





Demographic data are reported in the aggregate for all 73 recipient schools in Table 3. There are more male (52.10 percent) than female (47.90 percent) students represented in recipient schools and the percentage of students who qualify for free-and-reduced lunch across all recipient schools is 66.30 percent. Taken together with a total enrollment of 34,818 students across all schools, it is estimated that nearly 22,000 students receiving free-and-reduce lunch are represented in the BPEG. This suggests that roughly two-thirds of students who receive the benefits of the BPEG come from lower-income families.

**TABLE 3: Demographics of Students Across Recipient Schools**

<b>Descriptor</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Gender</b>		
Female	16,679	47.90%
Male	18,139	52.10%
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
American Indian or Alaskan Native	207	0.59%
Asian	593	1.70%
Black	1,757	5.05%
Latino	17,887	51.37%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	45	0.13%
White	13,404	38.50%
Two or More Races	925	2.66%
<b>Free-and-Reduced Lunch</b>		
Average Percent per School		66.30%

## Conclusion

The BPEG created by HB 11-1254 in 2011 and funded by Proposition BB in 2015 has progressed to the point that Colorado school districts are receiving funds to implement best practices in bullying prevention. The BPEG has a three-year grant cycle and is on track to provide grant recipients over \$2 million per year. These funds will be distributed across 14 local education agencies, 73 schools, and 5 of the 8 CDE regions in the state. Over 34,000 students are enrolled in recipient schools with nearly two-thirds of those students qualifying for free-and-reduced lunch.

Within the next year, all recipient schools will have completed their baseline data collection on the frequency of bullying on their campus. The implementation of evidence-based bullying prevention best practices will have been in place for almost an entire year. Preliminary results on the frequency of bullying during this first year of implementation may also be available depending on the date schools survey their students. Such results will be included in the 2018 BPEG Legislative Report.