Bullying
O.C.G.A. § 20-2-751.4

(a) As used in this Code section, the term "bullying" means an act that is:
   (1) Any willful attempt or threat to inflict injury on another person, when accompanied
       by an apparent present ability to do so;
   (2) Any intentional display of force such as would give the victim reason to fear or
       expect immediate bodily harm; or
   (3) Any intentional written, verbal, or physical act which a reasonable person would
       perceive as being intended to threaten, harass, or intimidate, that:
       (A) Causes another person substantial physical harm within the meaning of Code
           Section 16-5-23.1 or visible bodily harm as such term is defined in Code Section
           16-5-23.1;
       (B) Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education;
       (C) Is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or
           threatening educational environment; or
       (D) Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

   The term applies to acts which occur on school property, on school vehicles, at
   designated school bus stops, or at school related functions or activities or by use
   of data or software that is accessed through a computer, computer system,
   computer network, or other electronic technology of a local school system. The
   term also applies to acts of cyberbullying which occur through the use of
   electronic communication, whether or not such electronic act originated on school
   property or with school equipment, if the electronic communication (1) is directed
   specifically at students or school personnel, (2) is maliciously intended for the
   purpose of threatening the safety of those specified or substantially disrupting the
   orderly operation of the school, and (3) creates a reasonable fear of harm to the
   students' or school personnel's person or property or has a high likelihood of
   succeeding in that purpose. For purposes of this Code section, electronic
   communication includes but is not limited to any transfer of signs, signals,
   writings, images, sounds, data or intelligence of any nature transmitted in whole
   or in part by a wire, radio, electromagnetic, photo electronic or photo optical
   system.

(b) No later than August 1, 2011:
   (1) Each local board of education shall adopt a policy that prohibits bullying of a student
       by another student and shall require such prohibition to be included in the student code of
       conduct for schools in that school system;
   (2) Each local board policy shall require that, upon a finding by the disciplinary hearing
       officer, panel, or tribunal of school officials provided for in this subpart that a student in
       grades six through 12 has committed the offense of bullying for the third time in a school
       year, such student shall be assigned to an alternative school;
   (3) Each local board of education shall establish and publish in its local board policy a
       method to notify the parent, guardian, or other person who has control or charge of a
student upon a finding by a school administrator that such student has committed an
offense of bullying or is a victim of bullying; and

(4) Each local board of education shall ensure that students and parents of students are
notified of the prohibition against bullying, and the penalties for violating the prohibition,
by posting such information at each school and by including such information in student
and parent handbooks.

(c) No later than January 1, 2011, the Department of Education shall develop a model policy
regarding bullying, that may be revised from time to time, and shall post such policy on its
website in order to assist local school systems. Such model policy shall include:

(1) A statement prohibiting bullying;
(2) A requirement that any teacher or other school employee who has reliable
information that would lead a reasonable person to suspect that someone is a target of
bullying shall immediately report it to the school principal;
(3) A requirement that each school have a procedure for the school administration to
promptly investigate in a timely manner and determine whether bullying has occurred;
(4) An age-appropriate range of consequences for bullying which shall include, at
minimum and without limitation, disciplinary action or counseling as appropriate under
the circumstances;
(5) A procedure for a teacher or other school employee, student, parent, guardian, or
other person who has control or charge of a student, either anonymously or in such
person's name, at such person's option, to report or otherwise provide information on
bullying activity;
(6) A statement prohibiting retaliation following a report of bullying; and
(7) Provisions consistent with the requirements of subsection (b) of this Code section.

(d) The Department of Education shall develop and post on its website a list of entities and their
contact information which produce antibullying training programs and materials deemed
appropriate by the department for use in local school systems.

(e) Any person who reports an incident of bullying in good faith shall be immune from civil
liability for any damages caused by such reporting.

(f) Nothing in this Code section or in the model policy promulgated by the Department of
Education shall be construed to require a local board of education to provide transportation to a
student transferred to another school as a result of a bullying incident.

(g) Any school system which is not in compliance with the requirements of subsection (b) of
this Code section shall be ineligible to receive state funding pursuant to Code Sections 20-2-161
and 20-2-260.