



COLORADO
Department of Education

H.B. 11-1254

School Bullying Prevention and Education Grant 2020 Annual Report

Submitted to:

The State Board of Education and House and Senate Education Committees of the Colorado General Assembly

By:

The Colorado Department of Education

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Introduction and Background

In 2011, the Colorado General Assembly passed House Bill 11-1254, Concerning Measures to Reduce the Frequency of Bullying in Schools (C.R.S. 22-93-101). This bill, in part, created a grant program at the Colorado Department of Education (CDE) to support the reduction of bullying in Colorado schools. In 2015, voters passed Proposition BB, the Colorado Marijuana TABOR Refund Measure, which made funding available for the grant program. Since 2016, the Marijuana Tax Cash Fund has provided \$2 million each year to the School Bullying Prevention and Education Grant (BPEG) program to support bullying prevention in Colorado schools.

The BPEG program has distributed over \$8.4 million dollars to schools across the state since the inception of the grant. To date, the BPEG has funded two cohorts of schools, each for three years. The first cohort of 71 schools participated in the BPEG from the 2016-17 school year to the 2018-19 school year. Beginning with the 2019-20 school year, the second cohort of 109 schools was accepted into the grant program, which will continue through the end of the 2021-22 school year.



Bullying Prevention and Education Grant Program – Cohort 1

Grant Implementation

The first cohort of the BPEG included 71 schools from 14 school districts, including the Charter School Institute, representing five of the eight education regions¹ across the state. Prior to the first cohort of grantees, the BPEG received funds for startup costs including the hiring of a grant coordinator. For the 2016-17 school year through the 2018-19 school year, each school in the BPEG program was eligible to receive up to \$40,000 per year to support the implementation of bullying prevention programs and best practices at their sites. In accordance with Colorado State Board of Education rules, these funds may be used to:

- (a) implement evidence-based best practices for preventing bullying;
- (b) ensure sustainability of the bullying prevention efforts over time;
- (c) include families and the community in bullying prevention efforts;
- (d) include student leadership and voice in bullying prevention efforts;
- (e) adopt policies concerning bullying education and prevention;
- (f) survey students on their experiences with bullying; and
- (g) determine the degree to which implementation of evidence-based best practices were implemented with fidelity.

The number of students impacted by the grant each year varied slightly, but the total of the schools’ averages indicate that 34,305 students were affected by the BPEG program each year in Cohort 1. Table 1 provides a detailed list of the average number of students per school who experienced the benefits of the BPEG program across all three years of the grant.

TABLE 1: Average Number of Students Over Three Years at Each School in Cohort 1 of the Bullying Prevention and Education Grant Program.

| LEA/School | Students | LEA/School | Students |
|---|----------|--|----------|
| Adams 12 Five Star Schools | | Preston Middle School | 1,149 |
| Westgate Community School | 610 | Wellington Middle School | 542 |
| Boulder Valley School District RE-2 | | Pueblo City Schools District 60 | |
| Columbine Elementary School | 528 | Belmont Elementary School | 518 |
| Charter School Institute | | Bessemer Academy | 290 |
| New America School - Lakewood | 245 | Beulah Heights Elementary School | 389 |
| New America School – Lowry | 417 | Bradford Elementary School | 403 |
| Cherry Creek School District 5 | | Carlile Elementary School | 253 |
| Fox Ridge Middle School | 1,348 | Centennial High School | 1,156 |
| Horizon Middle School | 967 | Central High School | 781 |
| Crowley County School District RE-1J | | Columbian Elementary School | 369 |
| Crowley County Primary | 204 | Corwin International Magnet School | 616 |
| Denver Public Schools | | Eva R. Baca Elementary School | 323 |
| Bear Valley International | 311 | Fountain International Magnet School | 391 |
| Denver Discovery School | 377 | Franklin Elementary School | 406 |
| Eggleton Elementary School | 386 | Goodnight Elementary School | 711 |
| Hamilton Middle School | 884 | Haaff Elementary School | 361 |

¹ The five regions represented in Cohort 1 of the BPEG include the Metro, North Central, Pikes Peak, Southeast, and Southwest. The three regions not represented in Cohort 1 of the BPEG include the Northeast, Northwest, and Southwest.



| LEA/School | Students | LEA/School | Students |
|--|----------|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Hill Campus of Arts and Sciences | 768 | Heritage Elementary School | 378 |
| Lake International School | 341 | Heroes Academy | 343 |
| McAuliffe Manual Middle School | 229 | Highland Park Elementary School | 506 |
| Merrill Middle School | 567 | Irving Elementary School | 389 |
| Morey Middle School | 275 | Minnequa Elementary School | 425 |
| Skinner Middle School | 615 | Morton Elementary School | 497 |
| Stedman Elementary School | 274 | Park View Elementary School | 429 |
| Harrison School District | | Pueblo Academy of Arts | 691 |
| Harrison High School | 1,003 | Roncalli STEM Academy | 412 |
| Mountain Vista Community School | 608 | South High School | 1,093 |
| Lamar School District RE-2 | | South Park Elementary School | 358 |
| Alta Vista Charter School | 131 | Sunset Park Elementary School | 492 |
| Lamar High School | 433 | Sheridan School District 2 | |
| Lamar Middle School | 327 | Fort Logan Northgate | 578 |
| Parkview Elementary School | 296 | South Central BOCES | |
| Washington Elementary School | 270 | Fisher's Peak Elementary School | 336 |
| Montrose County School District | | Fowler Elementary School | 205 |
| Cottonwood Elementary School | 431 | Fowler Junior-Senior High School | 184 |
| Johnson Elementary School | 557 | Manzanola Elementary School | 59 |
| Northside Elementary School | 347 | Manzanola Junior-Senior High School | 77 |
| Oak Grove Elementary School | 415 | Trinidad Middle School | 234 |
| Olathe Elementary School | 431 | Thompson School District | |
| Pomona Elementary School | 394 | Berthoud High School | 702 |
| Poudre Schools District | | Cottonwood Plains Elementary School | 421 |
| Blevins Middle School | 616 | High Plains School | 466 |
| Leshar Middle School | 767 | Average Total | 34,305 |

Table 2 provides detail on the funding amounts for each local education agency (LEA) in the grant by year. On average, each LEA received \$154,512 annually and \$463,535 across all three years of the grant.

TABLE 2: Average Funding for Local Education Agencies Participating in Cohort 1 of the Bullying Prevention and Education Grant Program.

| Local Education Agency | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | Total |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Adams 12 Five Star Schools | \$24,275 | \$25,744 | \$25,380 | \$75,399 |
| Boulder Valley School District RE-2 | \$40,735 | \$33,669 | \$35,200 | \$109,604 |
| Charter School Institute | \$39,752 | \$67,355 | \$68,244 | \$175,351 |
| Cherry Creek School District 5 | \$51,236 | \$78,802 | \$75,802 | \$205,840 |
| Crowley County School District RE-1J | \$40,276 | \$35,930 | \$37,430 | \$113,636 |
| Denver Public Schools | \$273,739 | \$427,654 | \$410,202 | \$1,111,595 |
| Harrison School District 2 | \$82,638 | \$67,663 | \$64,238 | \$214,539 |
| Lamar School District RE-2 | \$149,650 | \$119,050 | \$140,995 | \$409,695 |
| Montrose County School District RE-1J | \$172,413 | \$97,511 | \$97,511 | \$367,435 |
| Poudre School District | \$123,631 | \$152,088 | \$152,180 | \$427,899 |
| Pueblo City Schools District 60 | \$862,674 | \$631,874 | \$770,020 | \$2,264,568 |



| Local Education Agency | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | Total |
|----------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Sheridan School District 2 | \$31,628 | \$40,570 | \$40,570 | \$112,768 |
| South Central BOCES | \$166,875 | \$202,850 | \$202,850 | \$572,575 |
| Thompson School District | \$101,316 | \$115,266 | \$111,999 | \$328,581 |
| Total | \$2,160,838 | \$2,096,026 | \$2,232,621 | \$6,489,485 |
| Average Per LEA | \$154,346 | \$149,716 | \$159,473 | \$463,535 |

Throughout the life of the grant, all participating schools completed several common activities. One of these activities was implementing an evidence-based bullying prevention curriculum. The department's website for the BPEG program (<https://cde.state.co.us/mtss/bullying>) provided grantees with a menu of evidence-based curricula; however, grantees were free to choose a curriculum that they felt best met their specific needs. Once schools selected an evidence-based curriculum, grantees were able to receive grant-funded training on the program. Some grantees also identified the need for additional bullying prevention training and were able to provide more professional learning to their staff.

Another consistent activity conducted by all BPEG grantee schools was the creation of a leadership team to systematically support bullying prevention efforts. This team, known as the bullying prevention committee, reviewed bullying data, addressed bullying concerns, and supported the day-to-day operations of the grant. All grantees also emphasized the development of student leadership. This included the formation of student leadership teams which provided feedback to staff on how bullying prevention efforts were being received by the student body as well as supporting the implementation of some curricular activities. In the spring of each year, students who returned parent opt-in forms were required to complete an anonymous survey on their experiences with bullying. By the end of the grant, schools surveyed an average of 68 percent of their students for the grant.

Outcomes

The ultimate goal of the BPEG program is to reduce bullying in Colorado schools. A brief survey was used to gather data on this goal, which included two key questions: (1) have you been the target of bullying?; and (2) have you witnessed bullying? Schools were able to use the survey of their choice and include questions that extended beyond these two; however, every survey was required to include the two key questions. Figure 1 shows the results of these surveys and the reduction in bullying experienced by students in schools served by the BPEG program over time.

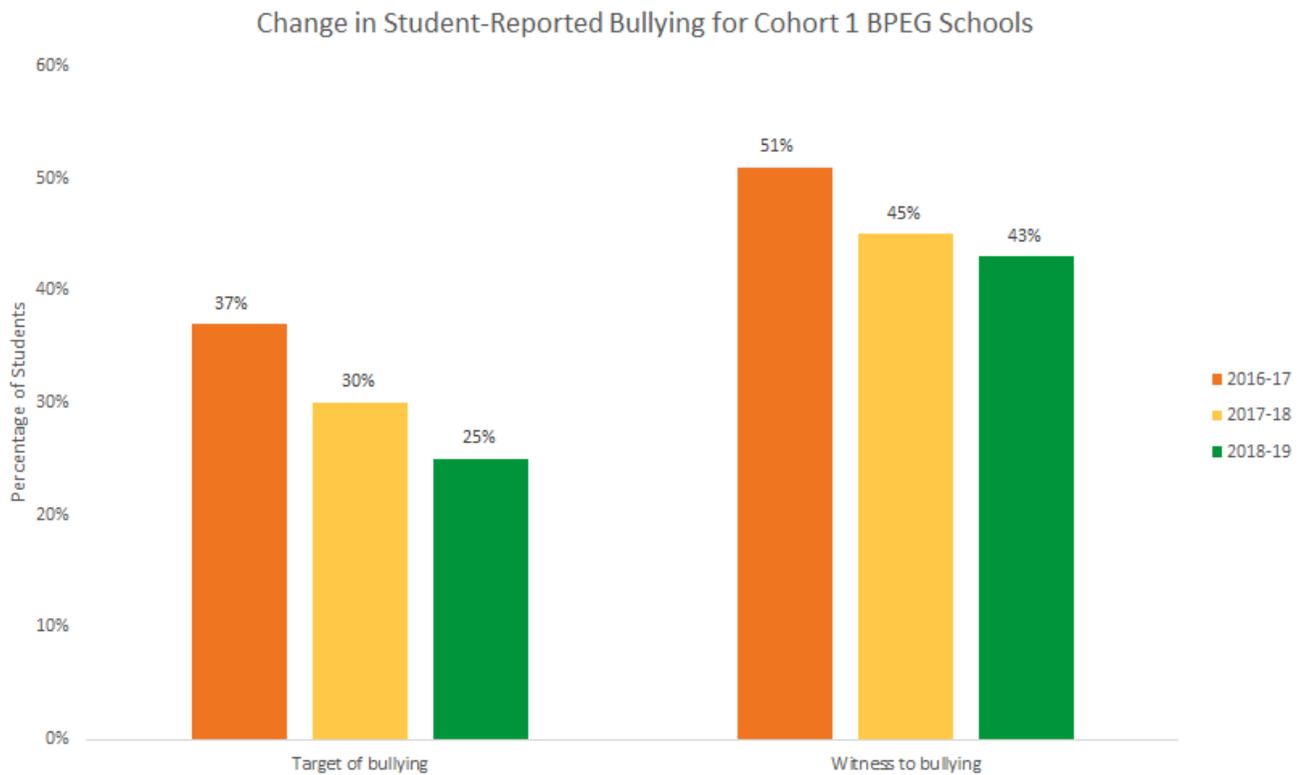


Figure 1. Change in Bullying Prevalence Rate for Cohort 1 BPEG schools.

During the baseline survey administration in the 2016-17 school year, 37 percent of students in grantee schools reported having been the target of bullying in the past year and 51 percent of students indicated that they had witnessed bullying. Data from the final year of the grant found that 25 percent of students reported being the target of bullying in the past year and 43 percent reported witnessing bullying in the past year. Both reductions were found to be statistically significant. These results showed that students in BPEG schools experienced 33 percent less bullying and were 17 percent less likely to witness bullying by the end of the grant.

To understand how the experiences of students in BPEG program schools compared with the nation, CDE pulled data from the School Crime Supplement (SCS) of the National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS). A subset of respondents to the NCVS who are students between the ages of 12 and 18 are eligible to complete the SCS. The SCS is administered by the federal Bureau of Justice Statistics every two years with the most recent data from 2017 with 6,037 responses. Although the SCS does not ask about witnessing bullying, it does ask middle and high school students about their experience as the target of bullying at school. More information on the results of the SCS bullying items can be found at the National Center for Education Statistic’s website:

<https://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2019054>.

In Figure 2, the national rate of experiencing bullying for middle school students in 2017 is compared to that of BPEG middle school students across the life of the grant. At the beginning of the grant program, middle school students in BPEG funded schools reported about 16 percent more bullying than the national average most recently reported by the SCS. By the end of the grant, middle school students in BPEG schools reported more than four percentage points less bullying than the SCS national average.

BPEG Middle School Bullying Prevalence Rates Over Time Compared to 2017 SCS Rate



Figure 2. BPEG Middle School (n=17) Bullying Prevalence Rates Over Time Compared to 2017 SCS Rate.

A similar trend was found for high school students, as seen in Figure 3. High school students in BPEG funded schools, at the beginning of the grant, reported a five percent higher rate of experiencing bullying than the 2017 SCS national rate of students experiencing bullying. At the end of the 2018-19 school year, BPEG high schools reported seven percent *less* bullying than the 2017 SCS high school national average. The SCS high school national average rate of bullying may change when the SCS releases its 2019 data, though the rate of middle school bullying has held steady around 25 percent since 2013 and the rate of high school bullying has remained relatively stable, ranging between 16 and 19 percent since 2013.

BPEG High School Bullying Prevalence Rates Over Time Compared to 2017 SCS Rate

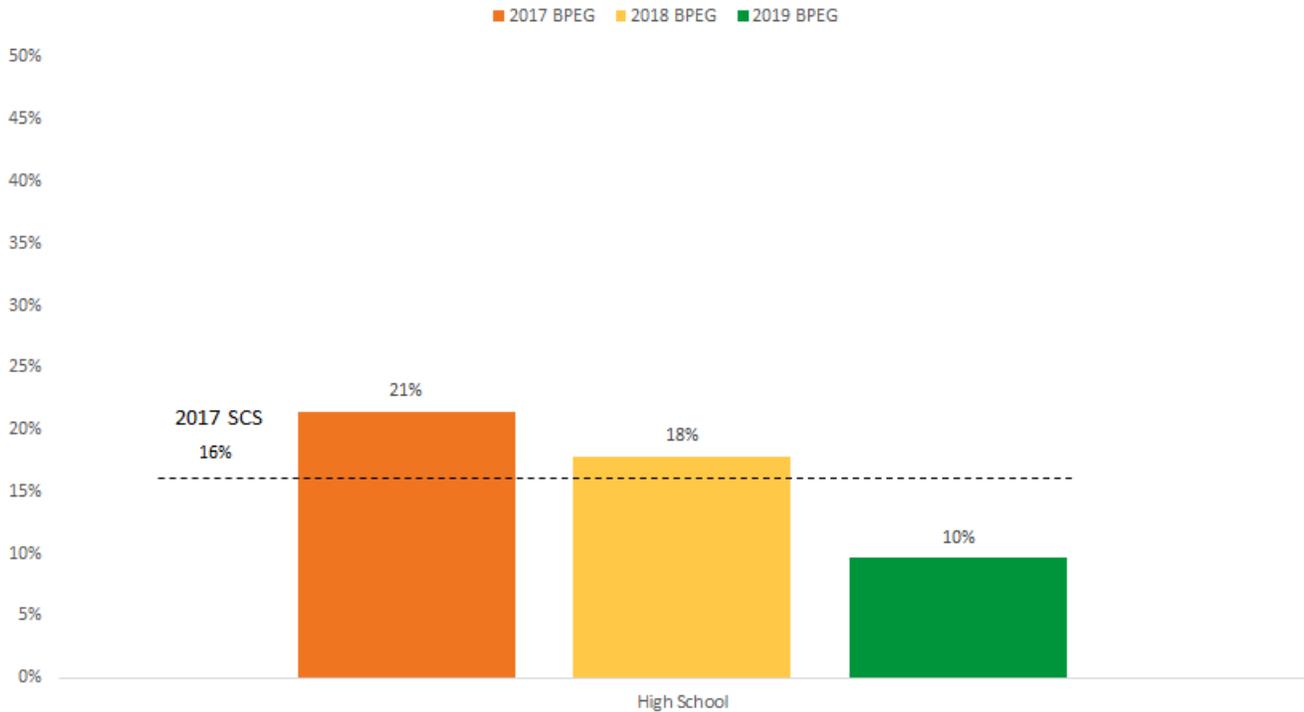


Figure 3. BPEG High School (n=6) Bullying Prevalence Rates Over Time Compared to 2017 SCS Rate.

Implementation Progress

Throughout the course of the grant, CDE required schools to measure the degree to which bullying prevention best practices were implemented with fidelity. The BPEG program provided several resources to support grantees with a structured approach to measuring the fidelity of implementation. One resource used by all grantees was the BPEG program self-assessment. This self-assessment consisted of seven components that support sustainable, effective bullying prevention: (a) having a bullying prevention committee; (b) creating a positive school climate and culture; (c) teaching a bullying prevention curriculum; (d) using surveys and data to track bullying behavior; (e) partnering between family, school, and community (FSCP); (f) giving student voice; and (g) having a written bullying prevention policy. Items within each of components of the self-assessment were scored on a scale from zero (Not in Place) to two (Fully in Place). Each school in the BPEG completed the self-assessment at least once each year.

Figure 4 shows improvements in implementation of the bullying prevention best practices across the three years of the grant. The scores for each section of the BPEG program self-assessment represent the average percentage of total possible points earned across all grantee schools. Overall scores for the BPEG program self-assessment increased 47 percentage points in the three years between the first administration and the final administration. This represented a statistically significant increase in implementation fidelity scores. The bullying prevention curriculum section saw the greatest improvements on the self-assessment, with an increase of 61 percentage points over time.

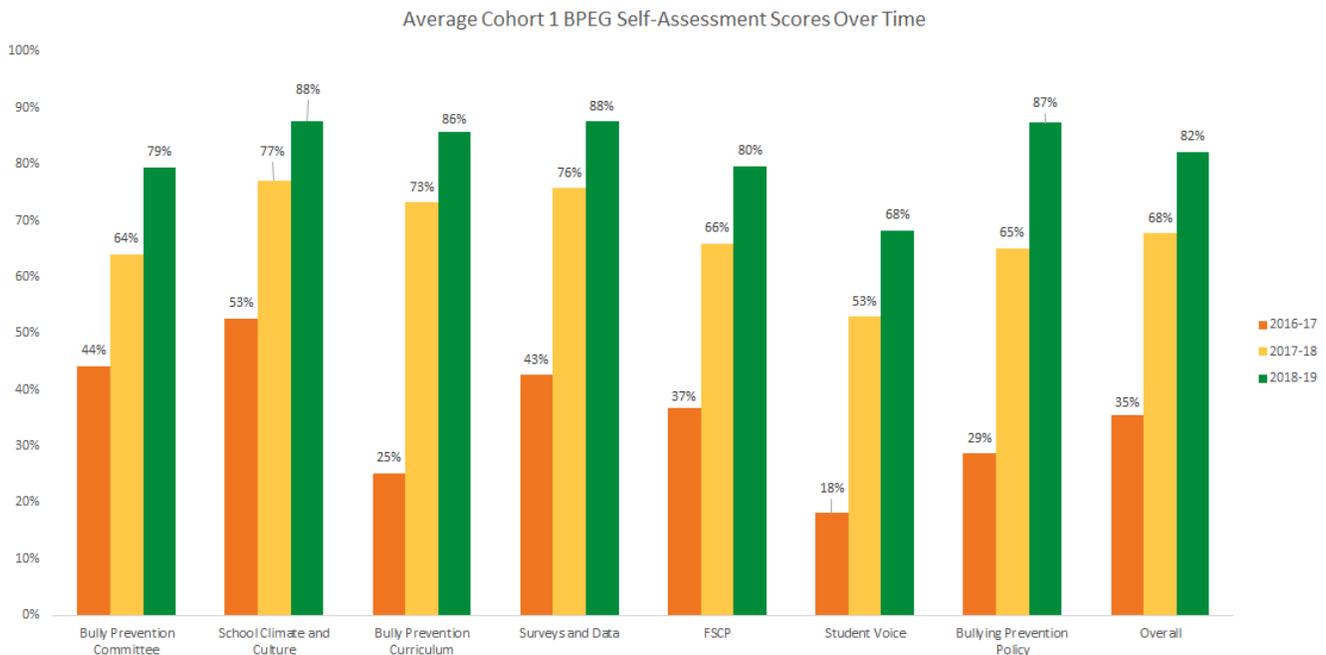


Figure 4. Average BPEG Cohort 1 Self-Assessment Scores Over Time.

Cohort 1 Key Findings

Data from both implementation fidelity and outcome measures for the BPEG program demonstrate that the goals for the program were met in Cohort 1. School staff reported significantly greater implementation of bullying prevention best practices by the end of the grant. This included improving their relationships with families, improving school climate, and developing written bullying prevention policies at the school and district level. Most importantly, students in BPEG schools reported significantly less bullying and witnessing of bullying.

Bullying Prevention and Education Grant Program – Cohort 2

Application Process

The second cohort of BPEG program grantees began the application process in the fall of 2018. In order to support the demand for participation in the BPEG program, CDE reduced the grant award to a maximum of \$25,000 per year compared to the maximum of \$40,000 in Cohort 1. The reduced amount of funding allowed CDE to provide services to a greater number of schools. CDE received requests for \$10.8 million from 29 applications representing 154 schools for Cohort 2 of the BPEG program. This was a 26 percent increase in district applications compared to the first round of applications, equating to a 97 percent increase in the number of represented schools compared to the first round of applications.

In addition to enabling more schools to participate in the BPEG program, CDE added supports to improve the readiness of potential grantees. To do so, the department added a readiness assessment to the application process for potential grantees to determine their level of preparedness for implementing the BPEG program. The readiness assessment included a staff survey on their level of commitment to implement the BPEG program, obtaining commitments from staff to participate in the bullying prevention committee for the following year, and describing the school’s plan for training on the selected evidence-based curriculum. Also, the grant program provided schools up to \$1,000 to administer a spring 2019 baseline survey of their students’ experiences with bullying. This baseline survey ensured that Cohort 2 schools obtained valid baseline data before any training or implementation of activities was provided.



The application process for Cohort 2 of the BPEG program was completed in the summer of 2019. The BPEG funded a total of 22 grantees representing 20 LEAs and 109 schools for Cohort 2. This was an increase of 48 percent in the number of grantees and 54 percent in the number of schools receiving services from the grant compared to Cohort 1. Table 3 lists the LEAs, schools, and number of students enrolled in 2019-20 at each school funded through Cohort 2 of the BPEG program. Several grantees in Cohort 1 applied to be in the second cohort of the BPEG program. These applicants were required to submit additional documentation demonstrating their adherence to Cohort 1 grant requirements to be considered for funding.

TABLE 3: Number of Students in BPEG Cohort 2 Schools.²

| LEA/School | Students | LEA/School | Students |
|---|----------|--|----------|
| Adams 12 Five Star Schools | | Northside Elementary | 353 |
| New America School - Thornton | 337 | Oak Grove Elementary | 399 |
| Boulder Valley School District | | Olathe Elementary | 434 |
| Alicia Sanchez Elementary | 360 | Olathe Middle | 231 |
| Columbine Elementary | 494 | Peak Virtual Academy | 185 |
| Pioneer Bilingual Elementary | 485 | Pomona Elementary | 388 |
| Center Consolidated Schools | | Mountain Valley School District | |
| Center High School | 133 | Mountain Valley School (K-12) | 170 |
| Haskin Elementary | 310 | Poudre School District | |
| Skoglund Middle | 142 | Bacon Elementary | 595 |
| Charter School Institute | | Cache La Poudre Elementary | 357 |
| New America School-Lowry | 285 | Cache La Poudre Middle | 335 |
| Ricardo Flores Magon Academy | 261 | Leshar Middle | 792 |
| Denver Public Schools | | Preston Middle | 1,132 |
| Bear Valley | 450 | Timnath Elementary | 456 |
| Eagleton Elementary | 309 | Wellington Middle | 553 |
| Hamilton Middle | 765 | Pueblo School District 60 | |
| Highline Academy Northeast | 546 | Belmont Elementary | 454 |
| Highline Academy Southeast | 520 | Bessemer Academy | 282 |
| Merrill Middle | 561 | Beulah Heights Elementary | 371 |
| Omar D. Blair Charter School | 716 | Bradford Elementary | 374 |
| Greely 6 | | Carlile Elementary | 214 |
| Jackson Elementary | 421 | Centennial High School | 994 |
| Martinez Elementary | 497 | Central High School | 800 |
| Meeker Elementary | 504 | Columbian Elementary | 370 |
| Monfort Elementary | 478 | Corwin International Magnet School | 597 |
| Shawsheen Elementary | 418 | East High School | 986 |
| Jefferson County School District | | Eva R. Baca Elementary | 279 |
| New America School-Lakewood | 152 | Fountain International Magnet | 341 |
| Lamar Re-2 School District | | Franklin School of Innovation | 390 |
| Alta Vista Charter School | 132 | Goodnight School | 639 |
| Lamar High School | 441 | Haaff Elementary | 325 |
| Lamar Middle | 329 | Heaton Middle School | 773 |

² The Charter School Institute application included all New America Schools even though two of the New America Schools are authorized by other districts.



| LEA/School | Students | LEA/School | Students |
|---|----------|--|----------|
| Parkview Elementary | 292 | Heritage Elementary | 327 |
| Washington Elementary | 271 | Highland Park Elementary | 487 |
| Mapleton Public School | | Irving Elementary | 353 |
| Achieve Academy | 526 | Morton Elementary | 441 |
| Adventure Elementary | 428 | Paragon Learning Center | 187 |
| Big Picture College and Career Academy | 136 | Park View Elementary | 369 |
| Clayton Partnership | 474 | Pueblo Academy of Arts | 688 |
| Explore Elementary | 425 | Risley International Academy of Innovation | 447 |
| Global Intermediate Academy | 280 | Roncalli STEM Academy | 540 |
| Global Leadership Academy | 266 | South High School | 943 |
| Global Primary Academy | 289 | South Park Elementary | 358 |
| Mapleton Early College | 266 | Sunset Park Elementary | 467 |
| Mapleton Expeditionary School of the Arts | 702 | Sheridan School District | |
| Meadow Community | 503 | Fort Logan Northgate | 541 |
| Monterey Community | 373 | South Central BOCES | |
| Trailside Academy | 478 | Custer County Elementary | 200 |
| Welby Community School | 387 | Custer High School | 105 |
| York International | 793 | Custer Middle | 90 |
| McClave Public Schools | | Eckhart Elementary | 129 |
| McClave Elementary | 139 | Trinidad Middle | 220 |
| McClave Junior High | 90 | South Conejos | |
| Monte Vista C-8 | | Antonito High | 46 |
| Bill Metz Elementary | 357 | Antonito Middle | 20 |
| Marsh School | 157 | Guadalupe Elementary | 84 |
| Monte Vista High School | 270 | Thompson School District | |
| Monte Vista Middle | 221 | Berthoud High | 696 |
| Montrose County School District | | Cottonwood Plains | 419 |
| Centennial Middle | 643 | High Plains | 568 |
| Columbine Middle | 517 | Windsor RE-4 | |
| Cottonwood Elementary | 431 | Windsor High | 1,377 |
| Johnson Elementary | 511 | Total | 45,856 |

Table 4 shows the approved budget amounts for Cohort 2 grantees across all three years of the grant program and the supplemental funding for conducting the baseline survey in the 2018-19 school year.

TABLE 4: Average Funding for Local Education Agencies Participating in Cohort 2 of the Bullying Prevention and Education Grant Program.³

| Local Education Agency | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | Total |
|----------------------------------|---------|----------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Boulder Valley School District | \$0 | \$75,000 | \$75,000 | \$75,000 | \$225,000 |
| Center Consolidated Schools 26JT | \$1,000 | \$75,000 | \$75,000 | \$75,000 | \$226,000 |
| Charter School Institute | \$999 | \$75,000 | \$75,000 | \$75,000 | \$225,999 |

³ Ricardo Flores Magon Academy is authorized by the Charter School Institute but applied as an individual charter school.



| Local Education Agency | 2018-19 | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | Total |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Denver Public Schools | \$2,000 | \$150,000 | \$150,000 | \$150,000 | \$452,000 |
| Lamar RE- 2 School District | \$0 | \$123,435 | \$113,335 | \$113,335 | \$350,105 |
| Mapleton Public Schools | \$0 | \$200,000 | \$200,000 | \$200,000 | \$600,000 |
| McClave Public Schools | \$1,000 | \$49,925 | \$49,700 | \$50,000 | \$150,625 |
| Monte Vista C-8 | \$888 | \$61,481 | \$46,182 | \$47,138 | \$155,689 |
| Montrose County School District | \$10,000 | \$200,000 | \$200,000 | \$200,000 | \$610,000 |
| Mountain Valley School District RE-1 | \$1,000 | \$25,000 | \$25,000 | \$25,000 | \$76,000 |
| Omar D Blair Charter School | \$1,000 | \$25,000 | \$25,000 | \$25,000 | \$76,000 |
| Poudre School District | \$1,000 | \$200,000 | \$200,000 | \$200,000 | \$601,000 |
| Pueblo School District 60 | \$3,396 | \$200,000 | \$200,000 | \$200,000 | \$603,396 |
| Ricardo Flores Magon Academy | \$1,000 | \$25,000 | \$25,000 | \$25,000 | \$76,000 |
| Sheridan School District | \$0 | \$25,000 | \$25,000 | \$25,000 | \$75,000 |
| South Central BOCES | \$6,000 | \$75,000 | \$75,000 | \$75,000 | \$231,000 |
| South Conejos School District | \$1,000 | \$74,992 | \$75,000 | \$74,997 | \$225,989 |
| Thompson R2-J | \$0 | \$75,000 | \$75,000 | \$75,000 | \$225,000 |
| Weld County Re-4 | \$1,000 | \$25,000 | \$25,000 | \$25,000 | \$76,000 |
| Weld County School District 6 | \$1,000 | \$125,000 | \$125,000 | \$125,000 | \$376,000 |
| Total | \$32,283 | \$1,884,833 | \$1,859,217 | \$1,860,470 | \$5,636,803 |
| Average Per LEA | \$1,614 | \$94,242 | \$92,961 | \$93,024 | \$281,840 |

Figure 5 shows the geographic distribution of BPEG grantees across the state from Cohort 1, Cohort 2, and those that continued from Cohort 1 into Cohort 2. Districts colored in red are those that were in Cohort 1 of the BPEG but did not continue to Cohort 2. Districts colored in yellow are districts new to Cohort 2 of the grant. Districts colored in blue are those that were in Cohort 1 and are also in Cohort 2 of the BPEG. As can be seen in the figure, the BPEG supports districts across north-central region of the state as well as most of the southern region of the state.

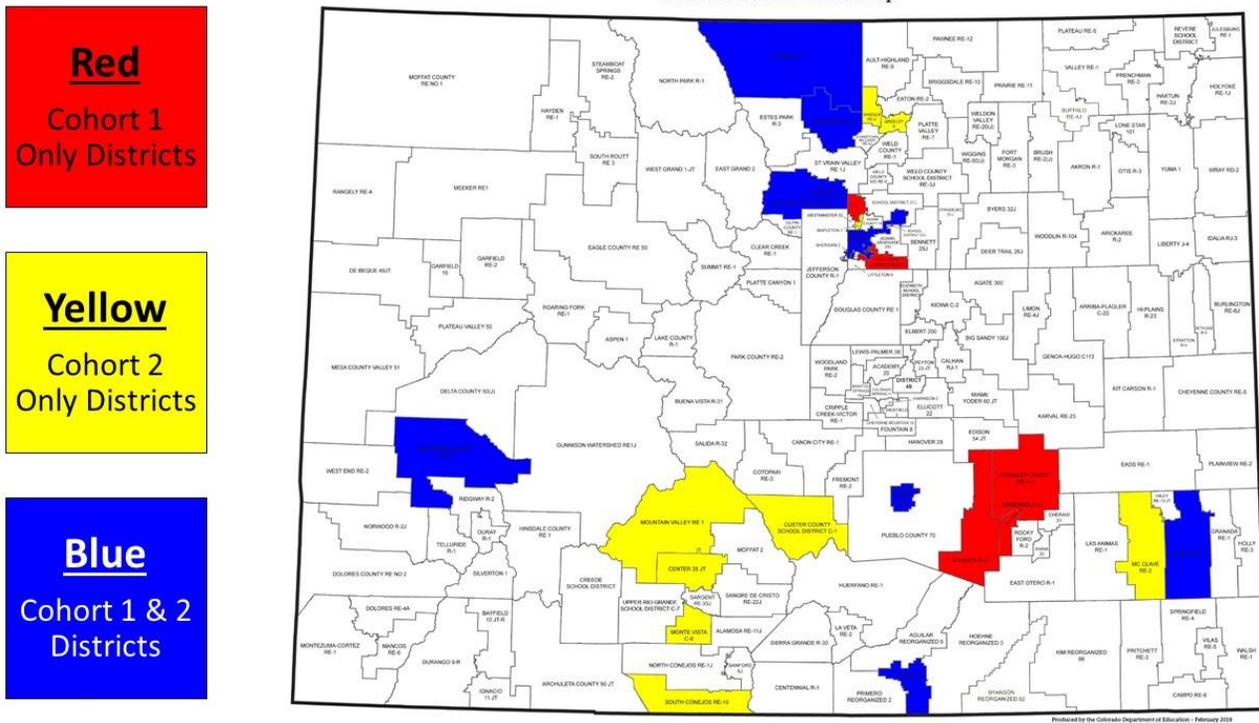


Figure 5. Location of BPEG Grantees.

Survey Results

As described previously, the BPEG required all Cohort 2 grantees to complete a survey of their students' experiences with bullying in the spring of 2019. For new Cohort 2 grantees, this data collection served as the baseline data for the BPEG. Due to differences in the degree to which new Cohort 2 grantees and Cohort 1 continuing grantees were implementing the BPEG, data were separated by these two groups.

Of the 109 Cohort 2 grantees, 55 grantees were new to the BPEG. As shown in Figure 6, 45 percent of students in these new grantee schools reported experiencing bullying and 52 percent reported witnessing bullying. Both percentages are higher than the baseline data for Cohort 1 schools, suggesting that bullying may be a more prevalent issue for schools newly entering Cohort 2 compared to the initial Cohort 1. Grantees continuing from Cohort 1 had lower reported rates of bullying. Specifically, 24 percent of students in continuing schools reported being the target of bullying and 44 percent reported witnessing bullying.

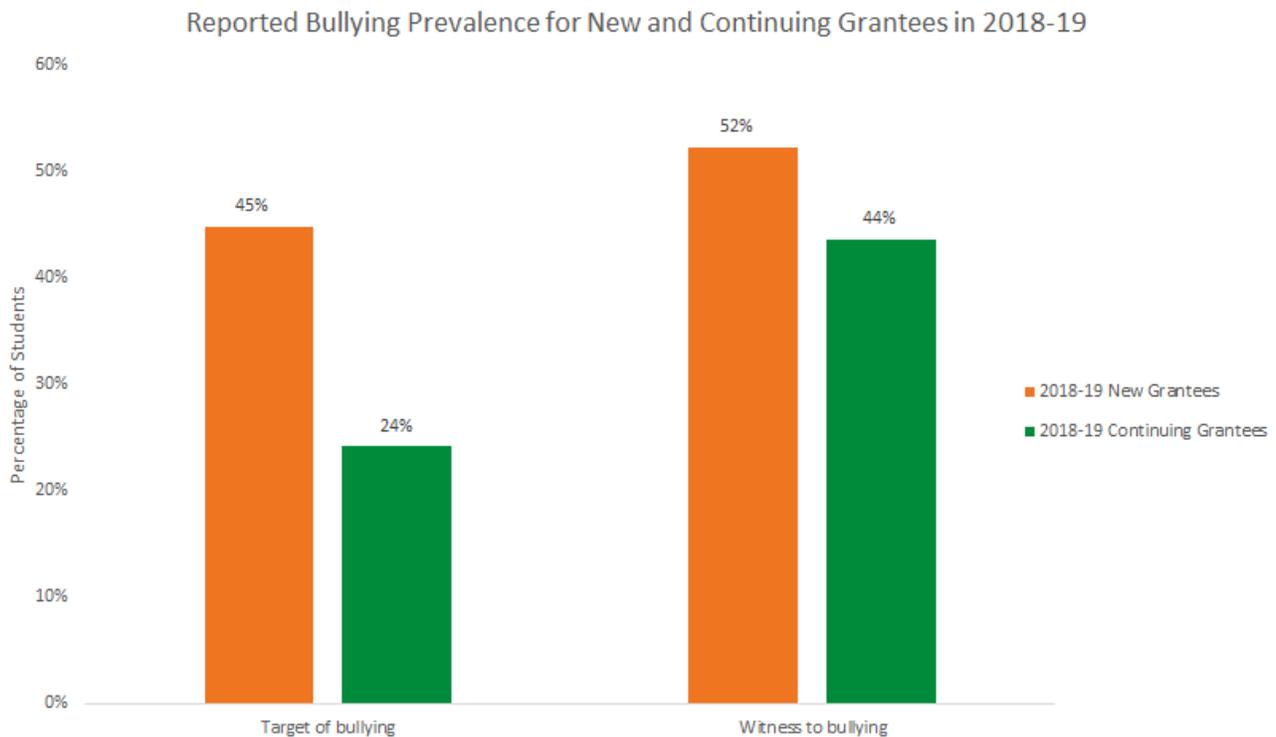


Figure 6. Student Reported Bullying Prevalence Rates in 2018-19 for Schools New to the BPEG and Those Continuing from Cohort 1.

Implementation Activities

The first year of implementation of the BPEG program for Cohort 2 was the 2019-20 school year. During this year, many grantees new to the BPEG focused on building the systems necessary in their schools to successfully implement the grant for the long term. This included forming their bullying prevention committee as well as creating processes for training, coaching, and the use of data. For many grantees, administration of the evidence-based bullying prevention curricula will occur at the beginning of the 2020-21 academic year once they have ensured all staff are trained and feel confident in administering the program.

Completion of the BPEG self-assessment is not required until June 30, 2020 and data from these assessments will be provided in the 2021 BPEG Legislative Report.

Conclusion

In the first cohort of the BPEG program, participating schools indicated a significant reduction in student reported incidents of bullying. Student reports of being the target of bullying dropped from 37 percent at the beginning of the grant to 25 percent by the end of the grant, and student reports of witnessing bullying dropped from 51 percent to 43 percent. This reduction represents an overall 33 percent drop in reports of being the target of bullying and 17 percent drop in reports of witnessing bullying. Moreover, compared to the SCS national rates of reported bullying, BPEG middle and high school students went from reporting more experiences of bullying in their schools compared to the SCS national rates to reporting fewer incidences than the SCS national rates by the end of the grant.

The department has made improvements in processes and procedures to support greater efficiency for schools participating in Cohort 2 of the grant. This includes supporting schools to improve their readiness to implement



the grant, reducing the burden of some reporting requirements, and partnering with other CDE initiatives to align training supports. Grantees have already collected baseline bullying data prior to the implementation of any prevention efforts. With Cohort 2 of the BPEG supporting well over 10,000 more students than were supported in Cohort 1, the grant has the opportunity to positively impact the lives of even more Colorado students in the years to come.