



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.

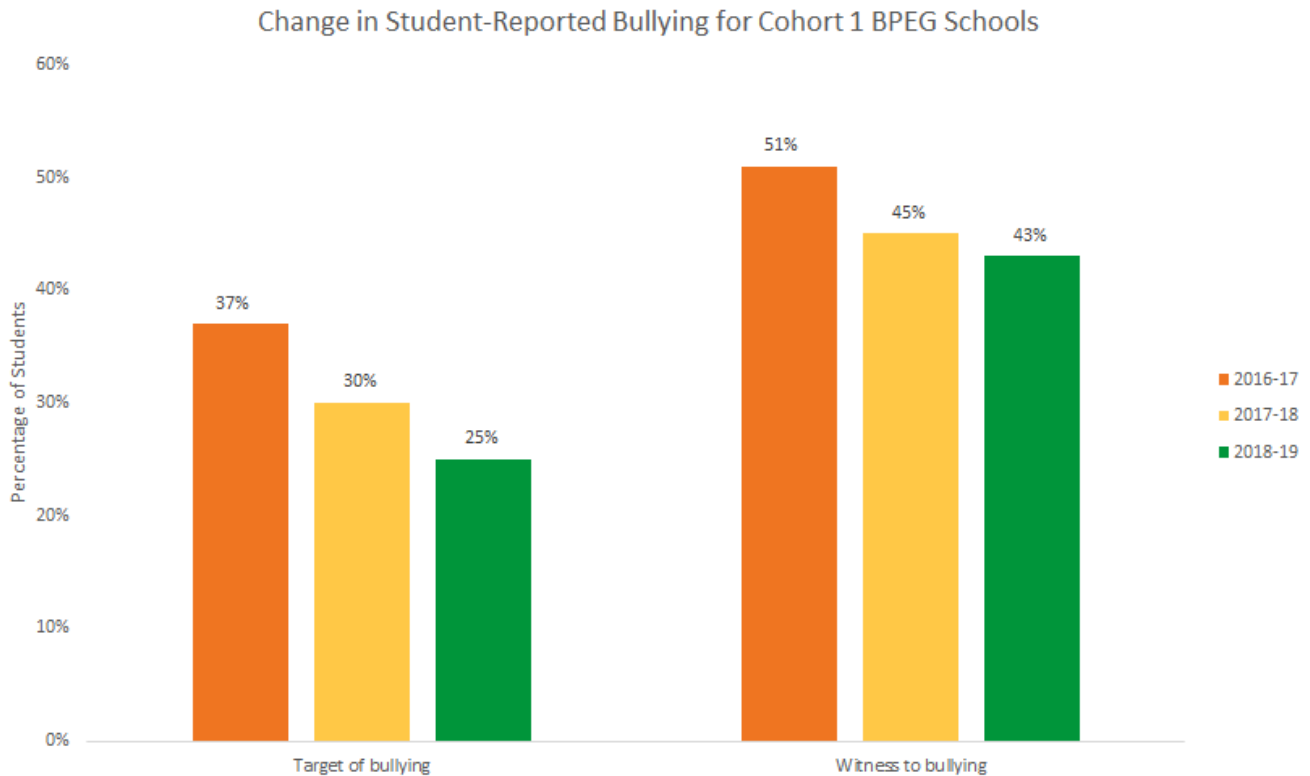


Figure 1. Change in Bullying Prevalence Rate for Cohort 1 BPEG schools.

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

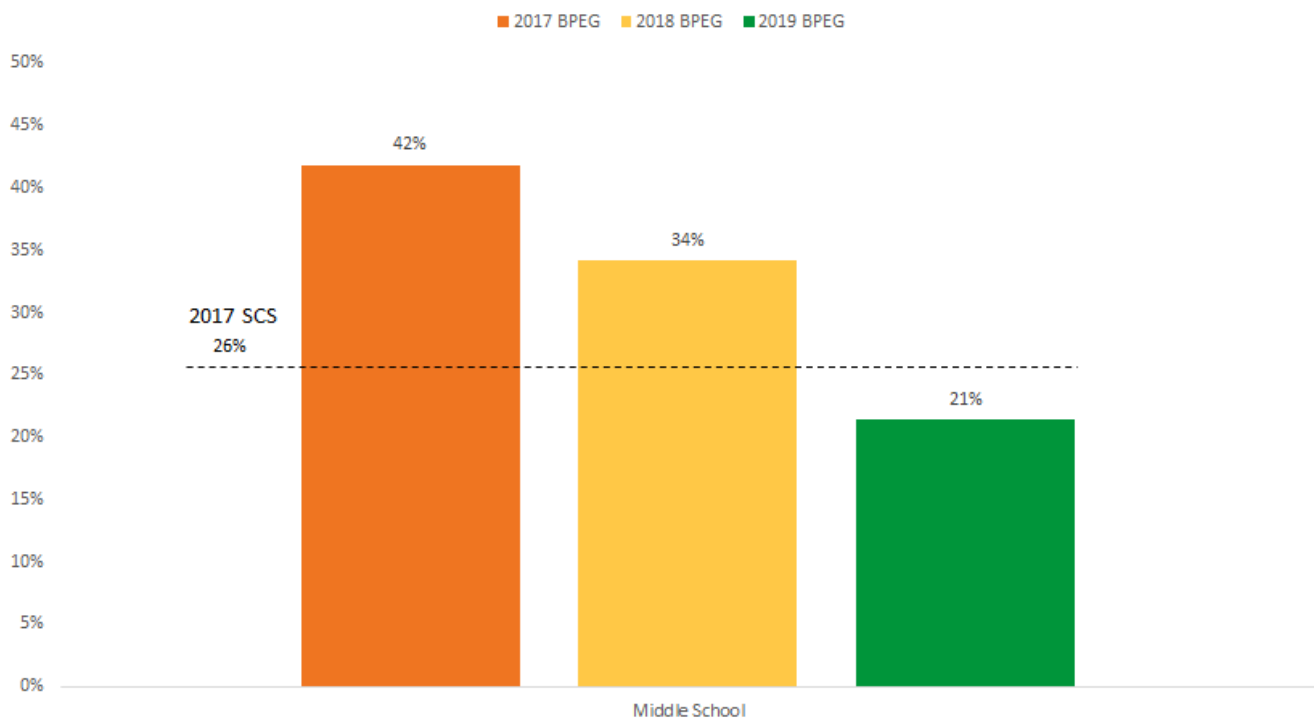


Figure 2. BPEG Middle School (n=17) Bullying Prevalence Rates Over Time Compared to 2017 SCS Rate.

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

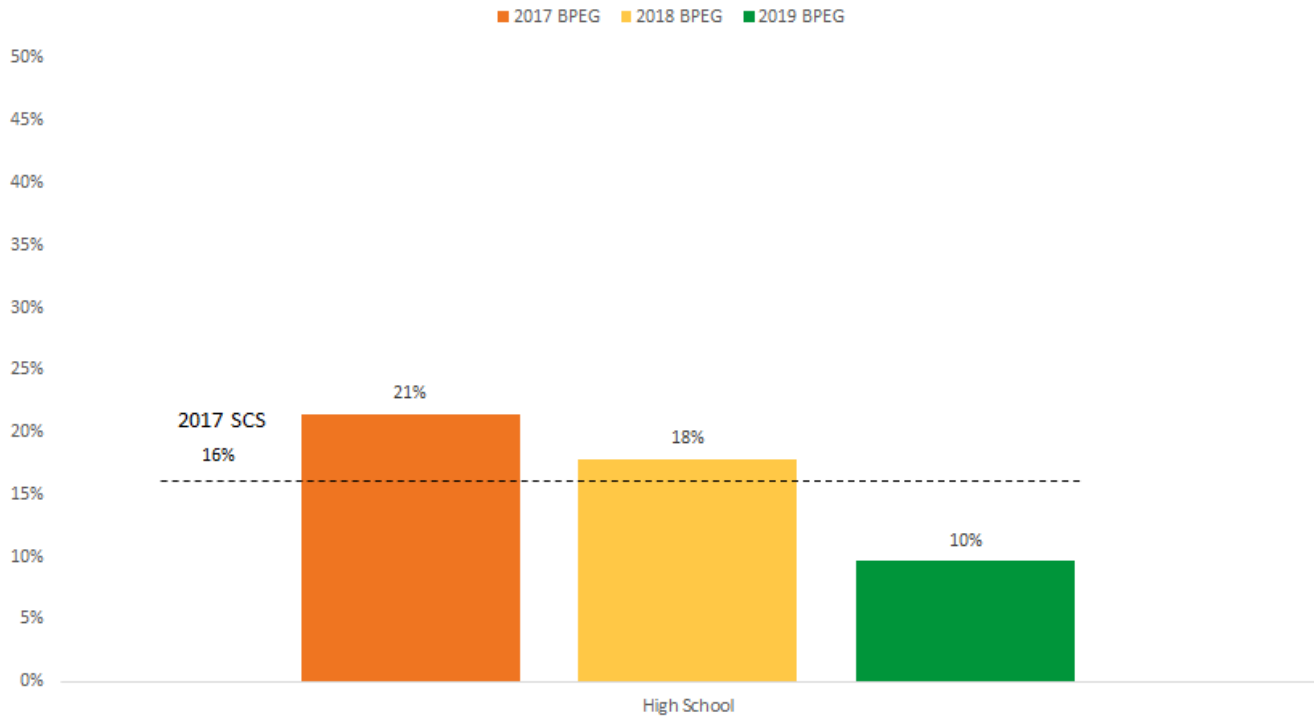


Figure 3. BPEG High School (n=6) Bullying Prevalence Rates Over Time Compared to 2017 SCS Rate.

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.

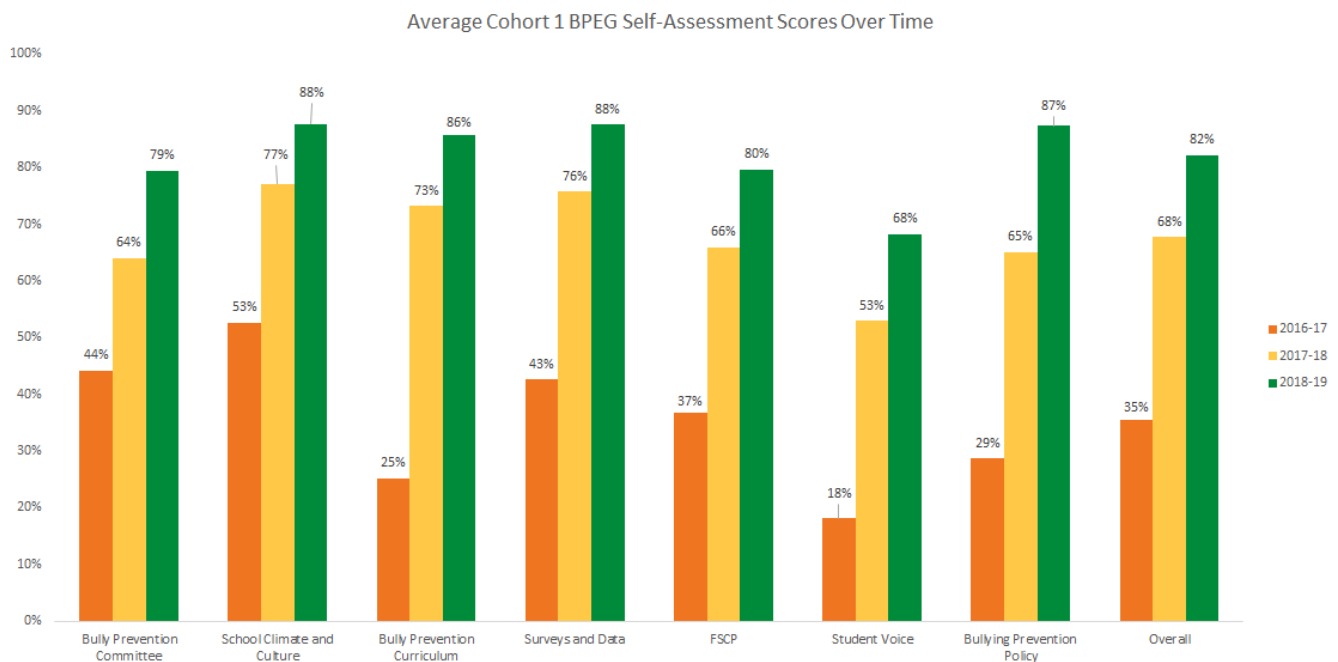


Figure 4. Average BPEG Cohort 1 Self-Assessment Scores Over Time.

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
Eggleton 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		Carlisle 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.

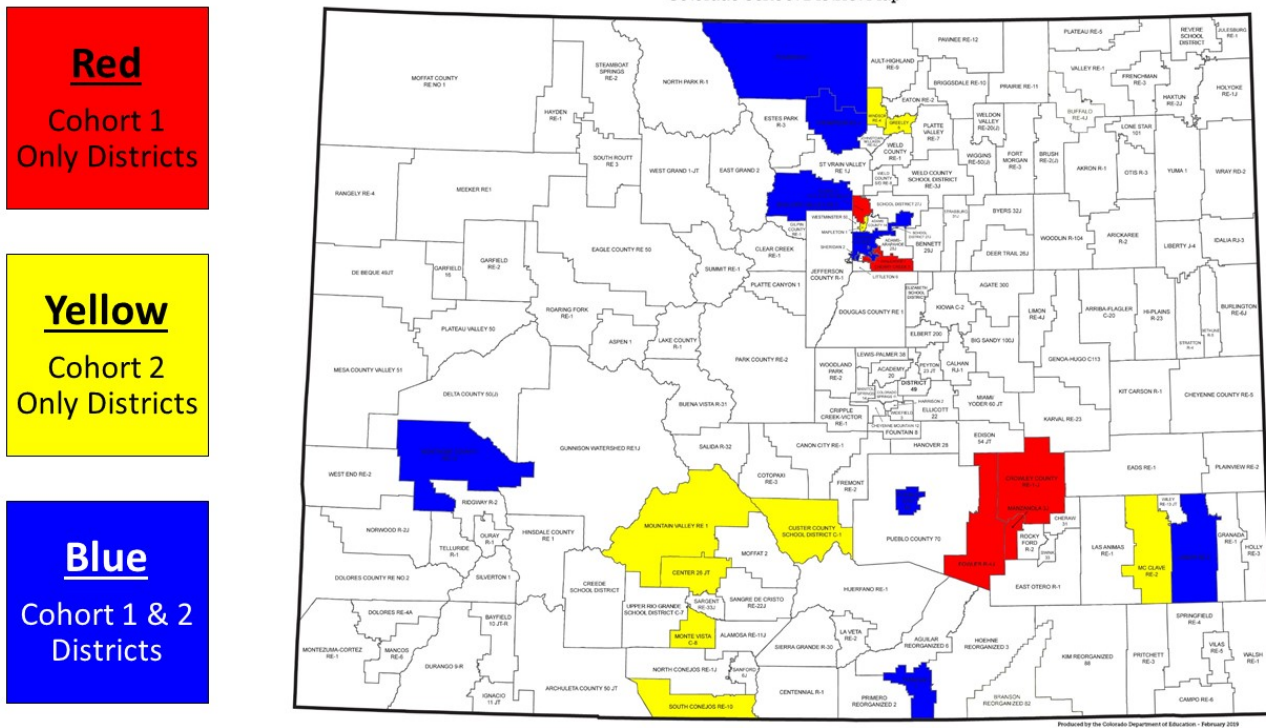


Figure 5. Location of BPEG Grantees.

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.

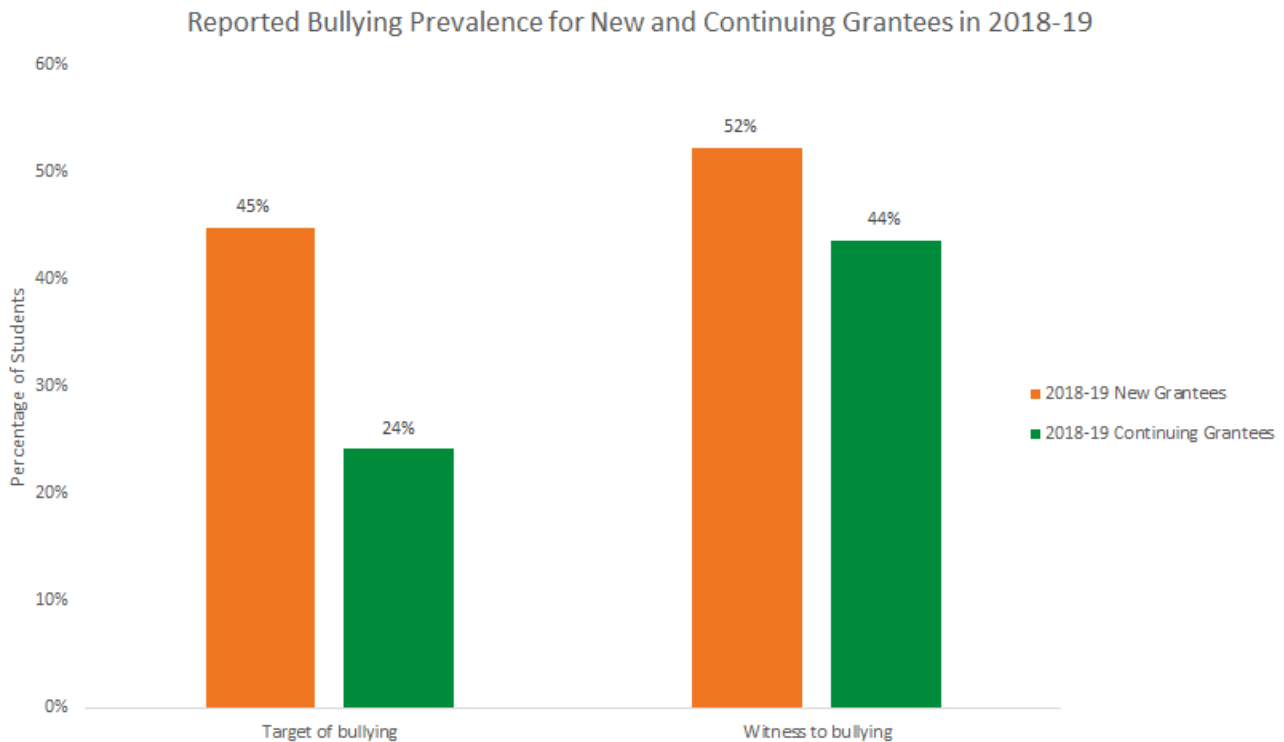


Figure 6. Student Reported Bullying Prevalence Rates in 2018-19 for Schools New to the BPEG and Those Continuing from Cohort 1.

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.