

Senate Bill 277: New Protections Against Power-Based Violence in PK-12 Schools

Under SB 277, effective October 1, 2025, you can go to court to hold your PK-12 school accountable if it doesn't enforce a comprehensive policy to address power-based violence.

What is power-based violence?

Power-based violence is any violence intended to control, intimidate, or harm another person by asserting power over them. It includes sexual harassment, sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, and violence based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

Am I protected?

You are protected if you are a PK-12 student or employee at a school district or charter school in Nevada, and you experience power-based violence from another student, a school employee, or a school contractor.

What if my school isn't following the law? If you have experienced power-based violence, but your school does not provide or enforce these protections, you can sue your school in state court for monetary compensation.

What must my school do to address power-based violence? If you file a complaint of power-based violence with your school, your school must have a policy on its website and within its policy handbook that includes the following:

- **Specific procedures** for responding to your complaint without causing you further trauma
- **A plan to deliver supportive measures** within 3 days of the school receiving your complaint, even if you don't want your school to investigate the incident
- **Prompt action** to stop the incident, prevent it from happening again, and help you stay in school

What are supportive measures? Supportive measures can help you stay in school after experiencing power-based violence. For example, your school can:

- Adjust your harasser's or your class schedule, assignments, exams, or activities, so that you don't have to interact with them
- Give you an excused absence or leave of absence
- Allow you to continue participating in school activities and holding leadership positions, even if your grades or attendance have dropped because of the violence or harassment
- Give you counseling services or a list of local counseling or legal services
- Comply with a court order that prohibits your harasser from contacting you
- Monitor school locations or events where you and your harasser are likely to interact

Where can I find a lawyer?

AGENCY	COUNTIES SERVED	CONTACT INFORMATION
<u>NEVADA LEGAL SERVICES</u>	All 17 counties throughout Nevada	<u>Get help</u> Reno Office: (775) 284-3491 Las Vegas Office: (702) 386-0404 Carson City Office: (775) 883-0404 Elko Office: (775) 753-5880
<u>NORTHERN NEVADA LEGAL AID</u>	Washoe County	<u>Get help</u> (775) 329 – 2727
<u>LEGAL AID CENTER OF SOUTHERN NEVADA</u>	Clark County	702-386-1070
<u>VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS FOR NEVADA</u>	All counties except Clark and Washoe Counties	<u>Get help</u> 775-883-8278
<u>NATIONAL WOMEN'S LAW CENTER</u>	All counties	<u>Get help</u>

Have you experienced other types of harassment or violence in school?

Nevada's Chapter 388 protects you from bullying and race discrimination (including race-based harassment).

Bullying includes any conduct (including online) that “substantially interferes” with your ability to participate in school. **Race discrimination** includes any conduct (including online or off-campus) based on race, color, ethnicity, language, or religion targeted at you or others.

PK-12 schools must address bullying or race discrimination by (NRS 388.1351):

- Reporting an incident to the administration the same day you report it or they see it
- Finishing investigating the incident within 5-7 school days after receiving the incident report
- Following up with you within 10 school days to make sure the incident has not happened again
- Taking “**any necessary action**” to address the incident

If you have experienced bullying or race discrimination, but your school hasn't followed these requirements, you can ask a court to order your school to follow the law (NRS 388.1321(2)).