

# **KROKIDAS & BLUESTEIN**

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## **ATTORNEYS**

### **CLIENT ALERT**

#### **MID-SEMESTER REMINDER: CHANGES TO MASSACHUSETTS ANTI-BULLYING LAW**

The Massachusetts Anti-Bullying Law, which applies to public school districts, charter schools and private schools, was amended earlier this year. Previously, the Anti-Bullying Law only addressed bullying by students. The Anti-Bullying Law now requires schools to prohibit, prevent, investigate and respond to bullying of students by members of school staff, including educators, administrators, school nurses, cafeteria workers, custodians, bus drivers, athletic coaches, advisors to extracurricular activities and paraprofessionals. See Sections 72-74 of Chapter 38 of the Acts of 2013.

This is a reminder that to comply with the updated Anti-Bullying Law, schools must:

- update their anti-bullying prevention and intervention plans, including their bullying reporting and resolution procedures;
- amend their employee handbooks; and
- train faculty and staff on the changes to the law.

DESE has provided additional guidance on the law, including an updated Model Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan and a compliance checklist, available here: <http://www.doe.mass.edu/bullying/>.

Please contact Attorneys Elka Sachs ([esachs@kb-law.com](mailto:esachs@kb-law.com)) or Anjali Waikar ([awaikar@kb-law.com](mailto:awaikar@kb-law.com)) if you have any questions or if you would like assistance with your bullying prevention and intervention plans and related policies and procedures.