



P.A. 23-167, which went into effect on July 1, 2023, honors the "spirit" of previous statutes and makes schools safe in all ways by focusing on creating positive, safe climates. It also ensures that schools work restoratively when there are challenging student behaviors rather than merely requiring them to eliminate 'Bullying.'

This presentation focuses on the radical changes that have been made to 20+ years of anti-bullying legislation, including the history of the legislation, the definitional changes with each amendment, and the new requirements in the relevant portions of P.A. 23-167. Presenters also cover the Connecticut School Climate Standards, the Connecticut School Climate Policy, and the timelines for their implementation. The new definition of bullying, which requires a context-dependent approach where the investigator determines if there is an imbalance of power (real or perceived), is highlighted.

JO ANN FREIBERG, PH.D.

Jo Ann Freiberg recently retired as an Educational Consultant with the Connecticut State Department of Education working in the Turnaround Office. She managed the wide arena of Bullying, Improving School Climate, Restorative Practices, Childhood Trauma, Cultural Competence, and Character Education. She currently works as a private Education Consultant with School Climate Consultants, LLC, engaged in the same work.

PATRICIA A. CICCONE, C.A.G.S., L.P.C.

Patricia A. Ciccone recently retired as Superintendent of the Westbrook CT public school district. She currently serves on the CT SEL Collaborative, is a member of the leadership team of the National School Climate Council, is a certified trainer with the International Institute for Restorative Practices, and is a faculty member at the National School Climate Center's Summer Institute.