

A measure that would require administrators to develop bullying policies for schools is going through the General Assembly this week.

According to Avery County Schools superintendent Grace Calhoun, it would not change anything for Avery County. Avery already has an efficient bullying policy. Avery County policy defines bullying as a form of harassment involving the repeated intimidation of others by the real or threatened infliction of physical, verbal, written, electronically transmitted or emotional abuse or by attacks on others' property. While Calhoun is proud of Avery's efforts and agrees school systems should have these policies, she has seen some controversy among school administrators who view legislation like this as a form of bullying. An amendment to the House measure that would have removed an entire list of characteristics of potential victims, including sexual orientation, was rejected by one vote earlier this week.