



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
EDUCATION ACTIVITY
4040 NORTH FAIRFAX DRIVE
ARLINGTON, VA 22203-1635

SEP 06 2012

MEMORANDUM FOR DoDEA AREA DIRECTORS

DoDEA AREA SUPERINTENDENTS, CIA
DoDEA AREA DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENTS, CIA
DoDEA DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS
DoDEA STUDENT SERVICES, ISS
DoDEA SCHOOL PRINCIPALS
DoDEA SCHOOL COUNSELORS
DoDEA SCHOOL STAFF

SUBJECT: National Bully Prevention Month, October 2012

As we approach October, 2012, National Bully Prevention Month, let's take this opportunity to renew our attention to provide all students with a safe and supportive learning environment. Every child is entitled to feel safe in the classroom, in the hallway and on playgrounds and busses. Bullying, verbal harassment, and cyber-bullying interfere with a student's ability to learn. All of us, teachers, administrators, students and parents, must continue to work together to eliminate unacceptable bullying and harassing behavior. Together we can make our schools safe places to learn, grow and thrive.

Bully prevention continues to be a top priority for Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA). To this end, I am asking that each school lead an effective and enduring school and community outreach effort to prevent bullying. To refine this important initiative, DoDEA Bully Prevention stickers have been sent to all schools for distribution to all students during the month of October.

Below are some suggested steps to action that you can take to launch your own school and community campaign:

- Review materials on the federal effort to prevent bullying found at www.stopbullying.gov.
- Review data from your customer satisfaction survey identifying bullying concerns specific to your school.
- Review data from your student needs assessment. What are students saying about how safe they feel? Use this information to begin planning a strategy to promote your school-wide bully prevention plan.
- Engage your School Advisory Committee, Parent Teacher Organization and community resources in a plan to raise awareness on this important topic. How will you address these concerns in your school and community?
- Involve student leadership in your bully prevention plan. Student-led initiatives are extremely effective in establishing a safe school climate.

- Provide information to parents in your school newsletter. Share the latest information on how parents can be involved.
- Review your Parent/Student Handbook to assure this topic is clearly addressed.

Thank you for your continuing efforts to support our DoDEA students and for giving a voice to those who feel powerless, scared and helpless. We owe and must provide every student the opportunity to learn and grow in a safe and nurturing environment.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Marilee Fitzgerald".

Marilee Fitzgerald
Director