

Dr. Martin Karp, Member

SUBJECT: REQUEST TO ADOPT THE COMPREHENSIVE DISTRICT-WIDE BULLYING AND VIOLENCE IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR THE 2006-2007 SCHOOL YEAR

COMMITTEE: INSTRUCTIONAL EXCELLENCE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The State of Florida, like 40 other states, lacks comprehensive anti-bullying/anti-harassment policies. This legislative session, two state laws are being proposed addressing the issue of bullying and harassment. These bills will require all Florida school districts to adopt statutes prohibiting bullying and harassment for the 2006-2007 school year.

Research on the effects of bullying and harassment has demonstrated the following results:

- Sixty-six percent of youth are teased at least once a month, and nearly one-third of youth are bullied at least once a month.
- An estimated 160,000 children miss school every day out of fear of attack or intimidation by other students.
- One out of every 10 students who drops out of school does so because of repeated bullying.
- Victims of chronic bullying often develop health, emotional and social adjustment issues, perform poorly in school, and are five times more likely to be suicidal.

Effective programs must also be developed to reduce bullying in schools. All children are entitled to courteous and respectful treatment by students and staff. Educators have a duty to ensure that students have a safe learning environment. The collaboration of students, staff, parents and the entire community is necessary to ensure that schools are a safe haven for our students.

The Division of Student Services has taken the lead by coordinating district and community resources and convening a Stakeholder's meeting consisting of Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) staff and community based organizations including: Amigos for Kids, The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, Child Assault Prevention Project of South Florida, Jewish Community Services, Miami -Dade Community Task Force for Bullying Prevention, M-DCPS Police, Non-Violence Project USA, Peace Education Foundation, PTA/PTSA, The Melissa Institute, Switchboard of Miami, and Youth Crime Watch. A comprehensive plan for PK-12 was developed to address the issue of bullying and violence prevention for Miami-Dade County Public Schools, which earmarks the following benchmarks:

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- Benchmark I: Create a process for schools to address violence and promote the reculturing of their environment to a safe and supportive community for all students and staff through the development of a school site bullying and violence prevention plan.
- Benchmark II: Develop and implement a standardized curriculum PK-12 for bullying and violence prevention to be delivered via the academic, personal/social, health and community awareness, and career domains of the Student Development Framework.
- Benchmark III: Establish and institutionalize a process for parents and community members to provide services, support, and recognition to the bullying and violence prevention initiatives through participation in community task force meetings.

During April 2006, the Division of Student Services coordinated six regional professional development sessions for an administrator and counselor from every school. These all-day sessions defined bullying behaviors and provided school-based prevention strategies.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. MARTIN KARP:**

That the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida direct the Superintendent to:

1. adopt the comprehensive district implementation plan to address bullying and violence prevention affecting Miami-Dade County Public School students for the 2006-2007 school year; and
2. support collaborative initiatives that create a safe and violence free learning environment for students in Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools
Division of Student Services
Bullying and Violence Prevention
District Comprehensive Implementation Plan

BENCHMARK I: Create a process for all schools to address violence and promote the reculturing of their environment to a safe and supportive community for all students and staff.

As indicated by:

- Development and approval of the Bullying and Violence Prevention District Comprehensive Implementation Plan.

<u>ACTION STEPS</u>	<u>TIMELINES</u>	<u>RESPONSIBLE OFFICE/DEPARTMENT</u> <u>Primary/Secondary</u>
Coordinate with Child Assault Prevention Project of South Florida, Inc.(CAP) to provide training that creates in-house trainers for each school in bullying and violence prevention.	April 2006	Division of Student Services CAP
In consultation with CAP have each feeder pattern develop an elementary and secondary bullying and violence prevention plan to be implemented in the 2006-2007 school year.	May 2006	Division of Student Services CAP M-DCPS Stakeholders
Include school police in the professional development at the school site.	June 2006	Division of Student Services M-DCPS Police
Create a no-nonsense bullying and violence prevention policy and plan to be implemented throughout all M-DCPS.	June 2006	Division of Student Services M-DCPS Stakeholders Community Parents
Provide professional development for school site staff and student services personnel to identify root causes of bullying and counseling techniques to combat bullying behaviors and reduce repeat offenses.	2006-2007	Division of Student Services M-DCPS Stakeholders Community Parents
Present the implementation plan to Regional Centers and school-site administrators to engage them in the process.	July 2006	Division of Student Services M-DCPS Staff Regional Centers
Provide professional development in-services for all instructional and non-instructional school site personnel ie. custodians, cafeteria workers, clerical staff and security.	August 2006	Division of Student Services M-DCPS Stakeholders

ACTION STEPS

Implement annual training for bus drivers on strategies to promote bullying and violence prevention.

TIMELINES

2006-2007

**RESPONSIBLE
OFFICE/DEPARTMENT
Primary/Secondary**

Division of Support Services

Transportation

Miami-Dade County Public Schools
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District Comprehensive Implementation Plan

- BENCHMARK II:** Develop and implement a standardized curriculum in the areas of bullying and violence prevention to be delivered by teachers addressing the educational, personal/social, health, and community/career domains. As indicated by:
- Completion of standardized curriculum
 - Baseline date of student incidents
 - Comparing baseline to post implementation data (annually)

<u>ACTION STEPS</u>	<u>TIMELINES</u>	<u>RESPONSIBLE OFFICE/DEPARTMENT Primary/Secondary</u>
Review existing programs, activities, and lesson plans.	January 2006	Division of Student Services M-DCPS Stakeholders Community
Scientific Board previews curriculum and makes recommendations.	February 2006	Division of Student Services Melissa Institute's Scientific Board
Collaborate with the Parent Academy to develop strategies, presentations, and informational meetings for parents regarding this topic.	Spring 2006	Division of Student Services Parent Academy Community
Create a standardized PK-3 rd grade bullying and violence prevention curriculum.	June 2006	Division of Student Services M-DCPS Stakeholders
Create a standardized 4 th -5 th grade bullying and violence prevention curriculum.	June 2006	Division of Student Services M-DCPS Stakeholders
Create a standardized 6 th -8 th grade bullying and violence prevention curriculum.	June 2006	Division of Student Services M-DCPS Stakeholders
Create a standardized 9 th -12 th grade bullying and violence prevention curriculum.	June 2006	Division of Student Services M-DCPS Stakeholders

<u>ACTION STEPS</u>	<u>TIMELINES</u>	<u>RESPONSIBLE OFFICE/DEPARTMENT</u> <u>Primary/Secondary</u>
<p>Incorporate the standardized curriculum into the District Comprehensive Implementation Plan via M-DCPS School Board Statute.</p>	<p>July 2006</p>	<p>Division of Student Services School Board</p> <p>M-DCPS Stakeholders</p>
<p>Provide on-going professional development to teachers and student services professionals from Pre-K to grade 12.</p>	<p>Summer 2006</p>	<p>Division of Student Services</p> <p>M-DCPS Stakeholders School Site Personnel</p>

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BENCHMARK III: Establish and institutionalize a process for district personnel and community members to collaborate to provide services, support, and recognition to the bullying and violence prevention initiative.

As indicated by:

- Increased offerings, services and participation through the Parent Academy, school site presentations/workshops, and community services.

<u>ACTION STEPS</u>	<u>TIMELINES</u>	<u>RESPONSIBLE OFFICE/DEPARTMENT</u> <u>Primary/Secondary</u>
Review existing stakeholders' list and expertise.	December 2005	Division of Student Services Community Parents M-DCPS Stakeholders
Collaborate with all core areas for infusion of bullying prevention curriculum.	January 2006	Division of Student Services Core Area Support M-DCPS Stakeholders
Create and support a community network of services and support.	January 2006	Division of Student Services Community Parents M-DCPS Stakeholders
Conduct a stakeholders meeting to gather ideas and support.	February 2006	Division of Student Services Community Parents M-DCPS Stakeholders
Collaborate with the Parent Academy to implement parent strategies via workshop and presentations.	January 2006	Parent Academy M-DCPS Stakeholders
Delineate responsibilities and tasks based on resources and services.	February 2006	Division of Student Services Community Parents M-DCPS Stakeholders
Schedule a community at large stakeholders meeting to engage members in the process.	June 2006	Division of Student Services Community Parents M-DCPS Stakeholders
Provide community services and support so that parents are taught the role family plays in the development of bullying behaviors.	Fall 2006	Division of Student Services Community Parents M-DCPS Stakeholders