



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

AUG 08 2011

MEMORANDUM FOR AREA DIRECTORS

**AREA SUPERINTENDENTS, CIA
AREA DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENTS, CIA
DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS
INSTRUCTIONAL SYSTEM SPECIALISTS, PPS
SCHOOL PRINCIPALS
SCHOOL COUNSELORS
SCHOOL STAFF**

**SUBJECT: DoDEA's Bully Prevention Campaign "Stop Bullying Now! Take a Stand.
Lend a Hand."**

DoDEA is firmly committed to providing all students with a safe and supportive learning environment. Recent tragedies resulting from bullying, taunting, cyber-bullying and public embarrassment demand that we renew prevention efforts and diligently monitor school climate. Every child is entitled to feel safe in the classroom, in the hallway and on playgrounds and buses. Bullying, verbal harassment, and cyber-bullying interfere with a student's ability to learn. All of us, teachers, administrators, students and parents, must work together to eliminate unacceptable bullying and harassing behavior. Together we can make our schools safe places to learn, grow and thrive.

Bully prevention will be a top priority for DoDEA as we begin SY 2011-2012. As a part of our commitment, DoDEA has joined forces with the Department of Health and Human Services and the U.S. Department of Education to bring a reinvigorated and broader focus on bully prevention to our schools and communities. DoDEA will adopt the national slogan "Stop Bullying Now! Take a Stand. Lend a Hand," to help unify our efforts and build a common understanding of, and expectations for, DoDEA's commitment and action to prevent bullying. We also have sent supplementary resources that were created for the national campaign to each of your schools. These materials should complement existing bully prevention programs in your schools.

I am asking that each school lead an effective and enduring school and community outreach effort to prevent bullying. On August 29, 2011, we will launch a DoDEA website dedicated to helping students, teachers, administrators, parents and community members in this collective, national effort to stop bullying wherever it may occur. Additional information and materials on the federal effort to prevent bullying and to keep kids safe can be found at www.stopbullyingnow.com and www.stopbullying.gov.

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

- Review the materials in your “Stop Bullying Now!” Campaign Activities Guide, Resource Kit, Video Toolkit and Youth Leaders’ Toolkit.
- 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.

Sincerely,



Marilee Fitzgerald
Acting Director