



**State Board of Education Ceremonial Resolution
National Bullying Prevention Awareness Month
CR22-32**

WHEREAS, the United States recognizes National Bullying Prevention Awareness Month each year from October 1–31, an observance that first began October 2006;

WHEREAS, the purpose of National Bullying Prevention Awareness Month is to provide resources and education to schools and communities to prevent childhood bullying and encourage unity through acceptance, inclusion, and kindness;

WHEREAS, students who experience bullying are at increased risk for mental health, physical health, and behavior problems such as depression, anxiety, sleep difficulties, and low academic achievement;

WHEREAS, according to a 2019 National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES) report, one out of every five students had been bullied, and 28 percent of bullying reports occurred at middle schools, which has the highest number of reported offenses amongst elementary and secondary grades;

WHEREAS, the Council of the District of Columbia passed the Youth Bullying Prevention Act of 2012 to address bullying, requiring different District agencies and educational institutions that provide services to youth to create a bullying prevention policy;

WHEREAS, the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) created a Bullying Prevention Policy that provide guidelines for educators, school staff and administration to follow in addressing instances of bullying to create a safe-learning environment for its students;

WHEREAS, in 2013 the District of Columbia Office of Human Rights created the Citywide Youth Bullying Prevention Program to reduce incidents of bullying across the District of Columbia by adopting a public health approach that focuses on prevention and supporting at-risk youth,

WHEREAS, the Office of the Ombudsman for Public Education receives a high volume of concerns about school violence and bullying, and to address bullying concerns, the Office of the Ombudsman ensures that families are informed about school bullying prevention policies, communicates with school administrators about the bullying, and facilitates the development of safety plans for students targeted by bullying, as well as supports families to ensure that targeted students receive resources and supports available, including access to mental health resources; and

WHEREAS, the Office of the Student Advocate supports students and families navigating pressures stemming from challenges within the District's school climate and culture, and offers resources and supports to students and families seeking options and solutions to incidents of bullying and harassment, as well as hosts on its website, studentadvocate.dc.gov, a podcast conversation about citywide bullying prevention efforts and “Right 2 Know” resource sheets.



NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the D.C. State Board of Education recognizes and observes National Bullying Prevention Awareness Month and works to inform preventative education to create safe learning environments and increase community safety among youth.

Date Adopted: 10/19/2022

Signed: 
Jessica Sutter, President

