

# BALTIMORE CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

10-0207R

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Mayor, City of Baltimore

Neil E. Duke, Esq.  
Chair, Baltimore City Board of  
School Commissioners

Andrés A. Alonso, Ed.D.  
Chief Executive Officer

Monday, May 24, 2010

Dear City Schools Colleagues and Staff,

Today marks the kickoff of Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week in Maryland and what I expect will be a full week of creativity and thoughtful collaboration in Baltimore City Public Schools.

Strong, healthy school climates are critical to our students' academic success and to maintaining their current momentum, and it is my expectation that each and every one of our 201 schools and programs will take time out this week to build awareness around bullying and generate strategies for preventing bullying behavior in their school communities.

Bullying is not a new challenge or a new focus for City Schools; we have long been aware that bullying behaviors exist among our students and in our schools, and we have done much to prevent them and provide students and teachers the necessary tools to deal with them. But we can always do more and we can never let up, and this week—proclaimed Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week by Maryland First Lady Katie O'Malley earlier this month—provides a great opportunity to give renewed focus to that work.

I strongly urge every school community to engage in organized activities this week that reinforce a few key facts about bullying: Bullying exists in our schools. Bullying can lead to more dangerous behaviors and it can have damaging effects on our kids. Bullying behavior is unacceptable in our school communities, and it will not be tolerated. And most importantly, our students, more than anybody else, have the leadership qualities and insight to reduce and eliminate bullying in our schools.

There are a number of suggested activities and resources in [To the Principal's Desk](#) this week. Many of you also have rich resources within your own community partnerships; this is a community-wide issue, and an opportune time and cause for leveraging the expertise and commitment of those partners. I urge you to avail yourselves of these resources, and to do what you can to advance this very important issue throughout not just City Schools, but the larger Baltimore community this week.

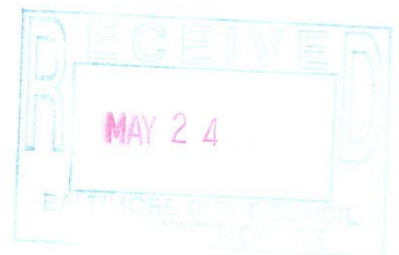
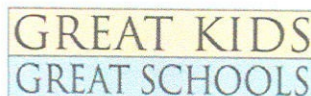
Finally, I ask that you consider how this work connects to your School Improvement Plan and engage your School Family Council in a discussion about issues of school climate, as they pertain to bullying.

Thank you for all that you do for our students, day in and day out.

Sincerely,



Andrés A. Alonso, Ed.D.  
Chief Executive Officer



Comments