



# SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Agenda Item# 10.2

**Meeting Date:** September 20, 2012

**Subject:** Bullying Prevention Update

- Information Item Only
- Approval on Consent Agenda
- Conference (for discussion only)
- Conference/First Reading (Action Anticipated: \_\_\_\_\_)
- Conference/Action
- Action
- Public Hearing

**Division:** Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Office/Integrated Support Services (ISS) Department

**Recommendation:** N/A

**Background/Rationale:**

It has been just over a year since the district's Anti-Bullying Policy (BP 5145.4) was adopted and a full-time Bullying Prevention Specialist was hired for the district. This presentation is intended to update the Board on progress to date and goals for the coming year.

**Financial Considerations:**

In the 2011-12 school year, the annual budget for the ISS department was \$3.2 million, with approximately \$97K allotted to bullying prevention through grants from the Sacramento County Office of Education, Sacramento County Mental Health Services Act and The California Endowment.

**Documents Attached:**

1. Executive Summary
2. Administrative Regulation (AR 5145.4)

**Estimated Time of Presentation:** 15 Minutes

**Submitted by:** Koua J. Franz, Chief Family and Community Engagement Officer

**Approved by:** Jonathan P. Raymond, Superintendent

# Board of Education Executive Summary

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### I. Overview/History of Department or Program

The issue of bullying has become a focus of national attention because of its impact on student health, wellness and educational achievement. In an effort to take a comprehensive approach to bullying prevention and intervention, SCUSD established a Bullying Prevention Task Force in October 2009, which informed the development of the district's strategic plan on bullying prevention, entitled "Creating Caring Schools".

While the strategic plan was being developed, the district's Anti-Bullying Policy (BP 5145.4) was adopted by the Board in June 2011. Three months later, the district created a full-time, grant-funded position to work on implementing the district's strategic plan on bullying prevention and ensure compliance with Board policy and state law. In May 2012, an Administrative Regulation (AR 5145.4) related to the Anti-Bullying Policy was approved by Cabinet. The Administrative Regulation spells out requirements for staff training, mandatory reporting of bullying and intervention strategies.

### II. Driving Governance:

Pillar I: Career and College Ready

Pillar II: Family and Community Engagement

Pillar III: Organizational Transformation

Work related to bullying prevention is a systemic and district-wide effort and helps create the conditions necessary for organizational transformation around issues such as school climate, student health/wellness, attendance improvement, academic achievement and college/career readiness.

### III. Budget:

In the 2011-12 school year, the annual budget for the ISS department was \$3.2 million, with approximately \$97K allotted to bullying prevention through grants from the Sacramento County Office of Education, Sacramento County Mental Health Services Act and The California Endowment.

### IV. Goals, Objectives and Measures:

The strategic plan on bullying prevention contains 15 specific strategies to help reduce the incidence of bullying at SCUSD schools and is inclusive of the goals and objectives outlined in Board policy. These are:

1. Develop district bullying policy.
2. Create district-wide committee focused on bullying and harassment.

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3. Create position to oversee bullying prevention and intervention activities.
4. Develop best practices and mandatory actions for school staff and administrators.
5. Develop a variety of mechanisms for reporting bullying, including a district hotline.
6. Support research connected to bullying, harassment and cybersafety.
7. Implement bullying prevention programs at all schools.
8. Create a youth action team to provide leadership on district bullying prevention efforts.
9. Focus on populations at high risk for bullying.
10. Enrich and expand partnerships with city, county and community.
11. Provide counseling and other support services to victims and perpetrators of bullying.
12. Provide education and training to students.
13. Provide training and support to parents.
14. Provide professional development training for all SCUSD staff.
15. Provide training and consultation to administrators.

The district's Board policy and Administrative Regulation outline more specific strategies for achieving these goals, such as mandated training for school administrators, site-based bullying prevention planning, reporting and response procedures.

### V. Major Initiatives:

The major initiatives related to bullying prevention are the following:

1. Implementing "Steps to Respect," an evidence-based bullying prevention program at elementary schools.
2. Providing bullying prevention training to school administrators, staff, parents and community members.
3. Providing consultation and support to district administrators related to specific student situations.
4. Developing systems for reporting bullying, including anonymous and web-based reporting.
5. Coordinating research related to both the incidence of bullying at SCUSD schools, as well as the effectiveness of bullying prevention efforts.
6. Creating strong relationships with county and community partners through participation in community collaboratives related to bullying prevention and through coordination of the district's Bullying Prevention Committee, which includes partners such as the California Department of Education, Kaiser Permanente, Sacramento State University, Sacramento County and others.

### VI. Results:

The SCUSD Bullying Prevention has had many accomplishments in its first year including:

1. Developing the district's Administrative Regulation (AR 5145.4).
2. Providing more than 37 bullying prevention trainings to 1,560 administrators, staff and parents and community members.

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3. Implementating “Steps to Respect,” an evidence-based bullying prevention program at 10 elementary schools.
4. Developing and implementing new forms and procedures related to reporting bullying behavior.
5. Developing forms, procedures and best practices related to intervention in bullying situations.
6. Developing and promoting an anonymous bullying reporting system through We-Tip.
7. Utilization of the California Healthy Kids Survey to evaluate levels of bullying at every district school.
8. Hosting an all-day conference for school and community professionals in May 2012 related to bullying prevention and the needs of LGBTQ students.

### VII. Lessons Learned/Next Steps:

While the Bullying Prevention Program has a well-developed roadmap and comprehensive approach to bullying prevention, the issue is complex and will require the collective action of the entire school district—and continued action over time—to make progress. It is vital that administrators understand what they need to do in order to prevent bullying and become leaders on this issue both at school sites and district-wide. At its core, the effort to prevent bullying behavior is about creating safe and caring schools that are healthy learning environments. This is a goal we all need to work toward.