



SACRAMENTO CITY UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION

Agenda Item# 10.2

Meeting Date: November 21, 2013

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

Department: Integrated Support Services

Recommendation: Information only

Background/Rationale: SCUSD has been a leader in addressing issues of bullying since 2009 when we established a district task force on bullying prevention and developed a comprehensive strategic plan. We remain one of only a few districts in the area to have a full-time person dedicated to this issue. Last year, more than 500 staff, students, parents and community members attended our bullying prevention trainings, including 92% of principals.

Financial Considerations: For the 2013/14 school year, the annual bullying prevention budget is \$112,000. The majority of this is funded through grants from Kaiser Permanente, The California Endowment, Novo Foundation and Sacramento County Office of Education, as well as funding from LEA-Medi-Cal.

Documents Attached:

1. Executive Summary

Estimated Time of Presentation: 10 minutes

Submitted by: Teresa Cummings, Chief Accountability Officer
Barbara Kronick, Director II, Integrated Support Services

Approved by: Jonathan P. Raymond, Superintendent

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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. The Sacramento City Unified School District has been a leader in addressing issues of bullying since 2009 when we established a district task force on bullying prevention and developed a comprehensive strategic plan. We remain one of only a few districts in the area to have a full-time person dedicated to this issue. Last year, more than 500 staff, students, parents and community members attended our bullying prevention trainings, including 90 percent of principals. We have developed a variety of mechanisms to report bullying, and provide assistance to administrators with investigating and responding to bullying allegations.

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, social-emotional learning, student health/wellness, attendance improvement, academic achievement and college/career readiness.

III. Budget:

For the 2013/14 school year, the annual bullying prevention budget is \$112,000. The majority of this is funded through grants from Kaiser Permanente, The California Endowment, Novo Foundation and Sacramento County Office of Education, as well as funding from LEA-Medi-Cal.

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. In the 2013-14 school year, the following goals are a primary focus:

1. Implement comprehensive bullying prevention programs at all schools.
2. Provide training and support to parents.
3. Provide training and consultation to administrators.
4. Provide professional development training for all SCUSD staff.
5. Enrich and expand partnerships with city, county and community.
6. Support research connected to bullying, harassment and cybersafety.



V. Major Initiatives:

Major initiatives focusing on the above goals include:

1. Implement comprehensive bullying prevention programs at all schools

We are using several evidence-based and research-based programs to accomplish this goal, including two that are approved by the Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL). This approach includes three distinct components: a school-wide component focused on training and awareness; a classroom component focused on reinforcing school wide rules and building social emotional skills; and an intervention component for students who are frequent targets or perpetrators of bullying. Currently, 15 schools are taking a comprehensive approach to bullying prevention.

2. Provide training and support to parents

Since 2012, we have provided trainings to 222 parents at 11 schools. Training parents is of great importance in addressing all issues of bullying, but especially cyberbullying and cybersafety. Parents are often unaware of the dangers posed by electronic devices and the possible harm they may cause their child or others. In addition, because they may have access to electronic information that school staff does not, the role of parents in preventing bullying cannot be overstated.

Providing support to parents is also an important role for the district's bullying prevention specialist. This includes completing reports of alleged bullying behavior and assisting in the process of creating safety plans when bullying is identified.

3. Provide training and consultation to administrators

Our focus last year was on providing training to site and district administrators and it continues this year. Although last year we trained 92% of principals, we continue to offer trainings to ensure that assistant principals, site instructional coordinators, district administrators and newly hired administrators are familiar with both Board policy and best practices regarding bullying prevention. In addition, we are called on to consult with administrators on difficult situations involving alleged bullying.

4. Provide professional development training for all SCUSD staff

Although providing training to administrators is vitally important, of equal importance is providing training to staff that are closest to the student level and can be in a position to stop bullying while it is happening and report it to administrators. To that end, we have been working closely with schools and district leadership to train teachers, office managers, yard duty, bus drivers, safety personnel and other staff that interact directly with students. Since

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2012, we have provided training to 428 school staff.

5. Enrich and expand partnerships with city, county and community

Our district depends on the support and teamwork of community partners and this is especially true with bullying prevention. Partnerships with the BRAVE Society, Sacramento Children's Home, Sacramento State University, California Department of Education, SCOE and others have helped guide us in developing best practices and have enabled us to bring programs to many more schools than we could do on our own.

6. Support research connected to bullying, harassment and cybersafety

While we collect data on numerous variables related to bullying such as alleged reports of bullying, education code violations, suspensions and disciplinary responses, we currently have no good way to determine if students in the district are experiencing less bullying year to year. This fact was brought up in the report completed by the California State Auditor in August 2013. Although we have attempted to use the California Healthy Kids Survey to collect data on the experiences of students in relation to bullying, harassment and numerous other issues, participation rates have been too low to be statistically significant. We hope to increase participation rates this year so that we can better understand this important issue.

VI. Results:

Results were noted in the above section on major initiatives.

VII. Lessons Learned/Next Steps:

- The district should continue to utilize the California Healthy Kids Survey to obtain data regarding issues of bullying and school climate at every district school. In order for this data to be most useful, participation rates in the survey must be increased.
- The bullying prevention program should continue to collaborate with the district's social and emotional learning initiative and "Guide to Success" to ensure alignment with these efforts.