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Model CEC Resolution

Establishing Guidelines for Bullying Prevention and Deescalation

WHEREAS, bullying in schools is prevalent and on the rise. Twenty percent of all students in the United States experience bullying as a victim. Public school students are more likely to be bullied than are private school students, girls are more likely to be bullied than are boys, ¹

WHEREAS, bullying takes place in person but is more prevalent online. Cyberbullying is also on the rise, and more than half of schools in New York State report incidents of cyberbullying each year.²

WHEREAS, students and parents are not sufficiently educated on the symptoms and consequences of bullying. The school system responds to incidents of bullying when reported but proactive and preventative strategies aren't discussed enough.

WHEREAS, the NYC Department of Education (DOE) outlines definitions and standards for the reporting of bullying in Chancellor's Regulation A-832³ which is part of the "Respect for All" campaign and includes the provision that each school principal designate a staff person as the RFA liaison/s and that disciplinary measures will be followed by grade.

WHEREAS, development programs that are designed to educate students and caregivers about emotional development and proactive approaches to inclusion and acceptance, such as Yale's RULER program or the Child Mind Institute, are expensive school-based programs that are not offered across all schools, resulting in disparities of both mental and emotional health development and response protocols.

¹ <https://nces.ed.gov/pubs2019/2019054.pdf>

² <https://www.ny.gov/cyberbullying>

³ <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/docs/default-source/default-document-library/a-832-student-to-student-discrimination-harassment-intimidation-and-or-bullying>

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the DOE hire more staff members, counsellors and/or social workers for each school, staff who students can feel comfortable talking with, and making it more accessible for students to be able to talk to these people. We call on the DOE to lower the approximate counselor/teacher ratio from 1:635, to the American School Counselor ratio guidelines of 1:250.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the DOE should educate students on the resources available to help each other. A digital and paper mailed “toolkit” to all parents and students on the importance of understanding relationships at school and bullying would be helpful. We also call for the DOE to hold an annual event during school educating students on bullying.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED - that the DOE develop a restorative approach and non-standardized way to resolving bullying incidents to replace the punitive disciplinary code.

NOTE: This mock Resolution was researched and written by students of the District 3, Model CEC and submitted to CEC3 and the District 3 Superintendent for advocacy consideration. The District 3 Model CEC aims to middle schools students a voice in conversations that affect the governance of their schools. CEC3 and District 3 launched New York City’s Model CEC program during the 2018-2019 school year.