

September 18, 2013

DIRECTIVE:	JOB CORPS INFORMATION NOTICE NO. 13-18
------------	--

TO: ALL JOB CORPS NATIONAL OFFICE STAFF
ALL JOB CORPS REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF
ALL JOB CORPS CENTER DIRECTORS
ALL JOB CORPS CENTER OPERATORS
ALL NATIONAL TRAINING AND SUPPORT CONTRACTORS
ALL OUTREACH, ADMISSIONS, AND CTS CONTRACTORS

FROM: GRACE A. KILBANE
National Director
Office of Job Corps

SUBJECT: National Bullying Prevention Month, October 2013

1. Purpose. To remind the Job Corps community that October is National Bullying Prevention (NBP) Month, with the theme “The End of Bullying Begins with Me.” This Information Notice provides center staff and students with ideas and resources to support NBP Month.

2. Background. Bullying presents one of the greatest health risks to children, youth, and young adults in U.S. society. It is pervasive in all grades and all schools nationwide. It is present regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status.¹ The percentages of students involved in bullying vary widely according to the definition of bullying that is used; however, one nationally representative survey found that approximately 28 percent of students ages 12 to 18 reported being bullied at school during the year.²

Bullying is defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as an attack or intimidation intended to cause fear, distress, or harm, and can be physical, verbal, or psychological. It may include a real or perceived power imbalance between the students involved, and it can include repeated attacks or intimidation between the same students over time. Examples of physical forms of bullying include hitting or stealing; verbal bullying includes threatening, name calling, spreading rumors; and psychological bullying includes behaviors such as socially rejecting and isolating someone, or cyber bullying (where perpetrators can hide behind the anonymity of the Internet).³

¹ American Educational Research Association. (2013). Prevention of bullying in schools, colleges, and universities: Research report and recommendations. Washington, DC: American Educational Research Association.

² Roberts, S., Zhang, J., Truman, J., and Snyder, T. (2012). Indicators of school crime and safety: 2011 (NCES 2012-002/NCJ 236021). Washington, DC: National Center for Education Statistics, U.S. Department of Education, and Bureau of Justice Statistics, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.

³ Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). (2012) Understanding Bullying – Fact Sheet. Retrieved online August 17, 2013, from <http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/bullyingfactsheet2012-a.pdf>.

More than 70 percent of students play some role in bullying, whether as one who bullies, is bullied, or witnesses bullying. Students who have been bullied report feeling depressed, anxious, and isolated. Many have low self-esteem. Their school attendance and performance may suffer. As the nation has seen recently, they are so tormented, they take their own lives.⁴

In the 2011 nationwide Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance survey, 20 percent of high school students reported being bullied on school property in the 12 months preceding the survey. An estimated 16 percent of high school students reported in 2011 that they were bullied electronically in the 12 months before the survey.⁵

Job Corps promotes bullying-prevention efforts and requires centers to provide students with proactive education on bullying prevention and the center's anti-bullying policies during the Career Preparation Period's introduction to center life. Staff members are also required to take an annual online training on bullying prevention through the SafetyNet Toolkit in SIMON.

This training is designed to increase awareness of the impact of bullying on student retention, and to promote bystander involvement on Job Corps centers. The SafetyNet, located on the Job Corps Community Web site, also includes information to help centers develop and implement a comprehensive anti-bullying policy.

3. Recommendations. Suggestions and resources for centers to enhance and expand upon their current prevention activities for NBP Month include:

- Specific information on NBP Month and resources from PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center make it easy to take action. To learn what your center can do, visit <http://www.pacer.org/bullying/nbpm/>.
- Stopbullying.gov is the official government bullying-prevention site. It provides information on preventing and responding to bullying, and standing up to bullies.
- Teens Against Bullying features many ideas and activities for youth, available at <http://www.pacerteensagainstbullying.org/#/home>.
- Check to see if there is a "Run, Walk, Roll Against Bullying" event in your city and encourage students and staff to participate. Visit PACER's site for more information at <http://www.pacer.org/bullying/nbpm/runwalkroll/>. If there is not an event in your city, consider collaborating with the HEALs committee and host one on center.

⁴ U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. (2012). *Indicators of School Crime and Safety: 2011* (NCES 2012-002).

⁵ CDC. Youth risk behavior surveillance – United States, 2011. (2012). MMWR, Surveillance Summaries 2012:61(No. SS-4). Retrieved online August 20, 2012, from www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/ss/ss6104.pdf.

- “It Gets Better Project” was founded when the original video was created and posted to YouTube, igniting a worldwide phenomenon. That first video offered a needed message of hope to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth. It urged young people to stay true to themselves even through the bullying and other challenges that confronted them in their adolescent years. It described the positive future they could experience as adults. The message was simple: No matter how difficult things may be, it gets better. Numerous resources for your anti-bullying campaign can be found at <http://www.itgetsbetter.org/>.
- “Bullying and Harassment of Students with Disabilities: Top 10 Facts Parents, Educators and Students need to know” provides information and resources regarding bullying of students with disabilities. A copy of this action information sheet can be downloaded at <http://www.pacer.org/bullying/resources/students-with-disabilities/>.

4. Action. Addressees are to ensure this Information Notice is distributed to all appropriate staff.

5. Expiration Date. Until superseded.

6. Inquiries. Inquiries should be directed to Carol Abnathy at (202) 693-3283 or abnathy.carol@dol.gov, or Johnetta Davis at (202) 693-8010 or davis.johnetta@dol.gov.