

September 26, 2014

DIRECTIVE:	JOB CORPS INFORMATION NOTICE NO. 14-14
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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: LENITA JACOBS-SIMMONS
Acting National Director
Office of Job Corps

SUBJECT: National Bullying Prevention Month, October 2014

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 campaign unites communities nationwide to educate and raise awareness of bullying prevention. This Information Notice provides center staff and students with ideas and resources to support NBP Month.

2. Background. Bullying is a form of youth violence, and can result in physical injury, social and emotional distress, even death. Victimized youth are at increased risk for mental-health problems such as depression and anxiety, psychosomatic complaints such as headaches, and poor school adjustment. Youth who bully others are at increased risk for substance use, academic problems, and violence later in adolescence and adulthood. The ultimate goal is to stop bullying before it starts.¹

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) defines bullying as any unwanted aggressive behavior(s) by another youth or group of youths who are not siblings or current dating partners that involves an observed or perceived power imbalance and is repeated multiple times or is highly likely to be repeated. A young person can be a perpetrator, a victim, or both (also known as “bully-victim”).² Youth who report frequently bullying others, and youth who report being frequently bullied are at increased risk for suicide-related behavior. Bully-victims have the highest risk for suicide-related behavior of any groups that report involvement in bullying.³

¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2014). Understanding Bullying — Fact Sheet. Retrieved from Injury Center: Violence Prevention. Retrieved Aug. 12, 2014, from http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pub/understanding_bullying.html

² Gladden, R. M., Vivolo-Kantor, A. M., Hamburger, M. E., & Lumpkin, C. D. (2013). Bullying Surveillance Among Youths: Uniform Definitions for Public Health and Recommended Data Elements. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and U.S Department of Education.

³ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2011). The Relationship Between Bullying and Suicide: What We Know and What it Means for Schools. Retrieved from Understanding Bullying. Retrieved Aug.12, 2014, from http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/bullying_factsheet-a.pdf

Bullying can happen anywhere – cities, suburbs, or rural towns – regardless of race, gender, faith or socio-economic status. Depending on the environment, some groups – such as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, or Transgender (LGBT) youth, youth with disabilities, and socially isolated youth – may be at an increased risk of being bullied. Bullying can occur in-person and through technology. Electronic aggression or cyber-bullying is bullying that happens through e-mail, chat rooms, instant message, a Web site, text message, or social media.⁴

The 2013 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System indicates that, nationwide, 19.6 percent of students in grades 9 through 12 experienced bullying on school property, and 14.8 percent of students had been cyber-bullied.⁵ Students with disabilities were two- to three-times more likely to be bullied than their nondisabled peers.⁶

Two Federal resources were officially launched at the recent 2014 Federal Bullying Prevention Summit. The first was the *Bullying, Harassment, & Civil Rights: An Overview of School Districts' Federal Obligation to Respond to Harassment* video, developed collaboratively by the U.S. Departments of Education and Justice, and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) of the Department of Health and Human Services.⁷ The video can be found at <http://www.stopbullying.gov/videos/2014/02/civil-rights.html>. The second resource was the KnowBullying app, a new mobile app from SAMHSA that includes a special section for educators to prevent bullying in the classroom, and supports students who are being bullied. The KnowBullying app is available for download from Google and Apple at <http://store.samhsa.gov/apps/bullying/>.⁸

Job Corps is committed to 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 on the Job Corps Community Web site. 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:

- Plan a "Unity Day" for October 22, 2014. Make your color orange on Unity Day.

⁴ Gladden, R. M., Vivolo-Kantor, et.al, op.cit.

⁵ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (2013). Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance — United States 2013. Retrieved from Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. Retrieved June 13, 2014, from <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/ss/ss6304.pdf>

⁶ PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center. (2013). Bullying and Harassment of Students with Disabilities. Retrieved Aug 12, 2014, from: <http://www.pacer.org/bullying/resources/students-with-disabilities/>

⁷ Sisaye, S. 2014 Federal Bullying Prevention Summit Addresses Importance of Collaboration. Retrieved August 28, 2014 from Stopbullying Blog: <http://www.stopbullying.gov/blog/2014/08/28/2014-federal-bullying-prevention-summit-addresses-importance-collaboration>

⁸ Retrieved Aug. 28, 2014, from <http://www.stopbullying.gov/blog/2014/08/28/2014-federal-bullying-prevention-summit-addresses-importance-collaboration>, op.cit.

That's the day everyone can come together – in schools, communities, and online – and send one large orange message of support, hope, and unity. See <http://www.pacer.org/bullying/nbpm/unity-day.asp> for ideas your center can use to send a strong message about bullying.

- 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 the Web site, <http://www.pacer.org/bullying/nbpm/>.
- Stopbullying.gov (<http://www.stopbullying.gov/>) is the official government bullying-prevention site. It provides information on preventing and responding to bullying, and standing up to bullies.
- 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.
- "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 LGBT 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 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 via e-mail at abnathy.carol@dol.gov; or Johnetta Davis at (202) 693-8010 or via e-mail at davis.johnetta@dol.gov.