



Dorchester County  
Public Schools  
Every Child A Success!

# SUPERINTENDENT'S PRESS RELEASE

Henry V. Wagner Jr., Ed.D., Superintendent

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## **Dorchester County Public Schools Spotlight Ongoing Suicide Prevention and Anti-Bullying Campaigns**

As part of the district's ongoing efforts to provide a safe and nurturing learning environment for all children, **Dorchester County Public Schools** are expanding initiatives that address two topics of concern to all of us – **suicide awareness/prevention** and **anti-bullying** measures.

### *Yellow Ribbon Suicide Awareness and Prevention Program*

**Mrs. Barbara Woolford, Supervisor of Guidance Services**, has begun the implementation of the *Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention and Awareness Program* for all students in grades 6-12. This initiative is a **follow-up** to the **suicide prevention training** that staff have received over the last several years. The goal is a more effective school safety program and to let students know that it is ok to ask for help. The **school counselor** will meet with classes or grade levels of students; **share the program** via power point; have them complete a **10 item knowledge survey**; and finally distribute the **Yellow Ribbon Card**. The school counselor will privately **review the responses to the survey** and, if needed, will meet with any student who indicates ideations of suicide or depression, and alert the parent(s). DCPS is dedicated to the understanding and prevention of suicide and wants to provide our students with resources to help others as well as themselves.

### *Stop the Hate! Erase the Bullying!*

**Mr. James Bell, Supervisor of Student Services**, has begun the implementation of the *Stop the Hate! Erase the Bullying! Program* for all Dorchester County elementary and secondary students. This initiative is a follow-up to the bullying awareness training that we have required for all staff. Lesson plans have been designed to pursue the following objective and goals:

**Lesson Objective:** Students will understand the effects of bullying, harassment & intimidation and what they can do to help stop it.

**Goal 1:** Students will be able to identify bullying, harassment & intimidation as defined by DCPS policy 450.9

**Goal 2:** Students will understand and discuss the effects of bullying, harassment & intimidation

**Goal 3:** Students will know what to do if they or someone else is being bullied

**Goal 4:** Students will understand the DCPS bullying, harassment & intimidation reporting and investigation process

**Goal 5:** Students will understand services available to students who experience bullying, harassment or intimidation

**Goal 6:** Students will understand consequences and interventions for those who are the perpetrators of bullying, harassment or intimidation

Additionally, each student and parent will be given the opportunity to sign an anti-bullying contract, which pledges the following:

As a responsible student enrolled in Dorchester County Public Schools:

- I will not participate in bullying, harassment, and/ or intimidation.  
(Name-calling, hitting, teasing, threatening, rumor/gossip, intimidation, rude gestures)
- I will not be a bystander and watch others bully my friends and/or classmates;
- I will report all bullying to a teacher, principal, school counselor, or family member
- I understand that bullying is a very serious offense at school, on the bus, at recess, in the classroom, at lunch, and any other school related activity/school sponsored activity
- I understand that the consequences for bullying could result in (but is not limited to) being removed from school sponsored activities/trips, loss of recess or specials, after-school detention, in-school suspension, out-school suspension, conferences w/administration or counselor and parent conferences, and possible expulsion.

For any concerns regarding your child's school experience, please contact your school principal or guidance counselor. For additional information on these district-wide programs, Mrs. Woolford can be

contacted at [woolfordb@dcpsmd.org](mailto:woolfordb@dcpsmd.org) or by calling 410-221-1111, ext. 1021; Mr. Bell can be contacted at [bellj@dcpsmd.org](mailto:bellj@dcpsmd.org) or by calling 410-901-6940.