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Fwd: DPS Observing National Bullying Prevention Awareness Month

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To: Hannah McClellan <hmccllellan@ednc.org>

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Crystal Roberts** <Crystal_Roberts@dpsnc.net>
Date: Wed, Oct 8, 2025 at 5:33 PM
Subject: DPS Observing National Bullying Prevention Awareness Month

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Durham Public Schools Promotes National Bullying Prevention Awareness Month

DURHAM, NC— Durham Public Schools has joined schools across the country in observing **World Day of Bullying Prevention®** in partnership with **STOMP Out Bullying™** to reaffirm a shared commitment to safe, caring, and inclusive schools for every DPS scholar.

“We know that bullying, cyberbullying, and hate-based harassment have lasting impacts on students. Our goal at DPS is clear: create a culture of belonging where every child feels seen, supported, and respected,” said Dr. Melissa Watson, Director of Student Support Services.

The DPS Board of Education read and approved a resolution proclaiming the month of October as Bullying Prevention Month at its October work session on October 7, stating that “Durham Public Schools is and will remain a community where everyone is welcome and where everyone belongs.”

The proclamation further states: “Durham Public Schools is committed to ensuring that every student in our schools, regardless of their background, receives a quality education in a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment...we believe this is the right of every Durham Public Schools scholar, and we will uphold that promise every day. Therefore, this proclamation serves as a testament to that commitment to safe, inclusive, nondiscriminatory schooling for every child.”

Schools will participate in weekly activities such as:

- Wearing blue to show support (#BlueUpDPS).
- Schoolwide activities, assemblies, or morning announcements that promote school commitment to kindness, respect, and restorative problem-solving.
- Sharing photos and activities on social media using #DPSBlueUp.

Week of October 6: Make a Friend Week

- Challenging every student to connect with someone new.
- Icebreakers or “get-to-know-you” circles in classrooms.
- “Welcome Table” in the cafeteria to ensure no one eats alone.

October 11: National Coming Out Day

DPS promotes diversity and inclusion. GSA clubs and allies will host safe-space conversations, create posters, or share affirmations that remind every student they belong.

Week of October 13: Stand Up for Others Week

- Strategies will be taught and practiced for being an upstander instead of a bystander.
 - Students will be encouraged to write positive messages on sticky notes for peers.
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Week of October 20: Week of Inclusion

- **#NoOneEatsAloneDPS** initiatives in cafeterias.
 - Classroom circles focused on empathy and listening.
 - Students will be encouraged to **invite new peers** to after-school activities or sit together on buses.
 - The hashtag **#HereForYouDPS** will highlight supportive peer messages.
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Week of October 27: Change the Culture Week

- Peer-to-peer discussions: "What does it mean to have a bully-free school?" Consider your student groups like We Are Kings, We Are Queens, SAVE, student council, etc., to lead these student-led discussions.
- Spaces for students to share experiences and solutions through class circles or advisories.

Student councils, ambassadors, and clubs will be encouraged to develop schoolwide pledges or murals that promote a culture of respect.

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