

FY 2008 QUESTION NUMBER: 41

QUESTION:

What is being done to work with general education students on bullying? Are there dollars in the budget for training general education teachers on strategies for dealing with bullying?

BUDGET PAGE REFERENCE: 6-19

ANSWER:

There are no resources in the Office of Organizational Development budget specifically for training general education teachers on strategies for dealing with bullying; however, this topic is covered as needed in leadership and development seminars. Both the Elementary Leadership Program and the Secondary Leadership Program include training for administrators on maintaining a safe school climate. These programs include bullying in the context of behavior management when discussing the creation and implementation of a school's discipline policy and when discussing student rights and responsibilities.

Participants in leadership development programs review the topics of behavior management and the handling of discipline issues and analyze actual situations. The Student Rights and Responsibilities policy is covered and training is provided on students' right to a safe, secure, and inviting school climate. The consulting principals work with new principals and other administrators to ensure that they work with students, staff, and community to develop each school's discipline policy and surveys of school environment.

The Department of Transportation's Ride by the Rules Campaign is aimed at raising the awareness of students, parents, school staff and transportation staff about the need for good conduct while in transit to and from schools. The program is multifaceted and includes training activities for all three school levels. Posters, bookmarks, age appropriate videos, and signs are posted on bus interiors reminding and educating students about the need for good behavior. This campaign also supports efforts to curtail bullying and includes specific references to bullying.