

March 16, 2011

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Community Members:

The Region X Equity Assistance Center at Education Northwest is partnering with the regional office of the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights, and the U.S. Department of Justice, Community Relations Service for Region X to convene an upcoming forum, entitled **"Eliminating Harassment, Bullying, and Hate Crimes: Strategies to Keep Your Kids Safe in School."**

Each organization is committed to ensuring equal access and promoting educational achievement and excellence for all students. Presenters will share their varying perspectives on different ways schools can achieve school safety through effective school policies, fair discipline practices, and parent and community engagement. We know that the safety and emotional well-being of your children is among your top concern. We invite you to join us for this regional forum on Wednesday, April 6, 2011, from 5:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. at the Idaho Community Action Network in Boise, Idaho.

Topics to be covered at the forum include:

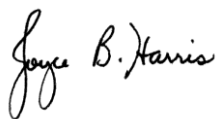
- The legal requirements schools must meet in addressing harassment, bullying, and hate crimes;
- How harassment, bullying, and hate crimes affect students, families, and communities; and
- Recognizing and reporting harassment, bullying, and hate crimes;

Harassment, bullying, and hate crimes are serious issues facing schools today. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan recently said, "Bullying is part of that continuum of school safety. It is troubling in and of itself. But, bullying is doubly dangerous because if left unattended, it can rapidly escalate into even more serious violence and abuse. Just as you have gateway drugs, bullying is gateway behavior." We know how important this issue is to you as educators, and this forum is designed to provide you with tools to help address this problem.

The forum is free of charge and open to everyone, especially parents, guardians, community members, and school and district parent liaisons. Please visit <http://educationnorthwest.org/event/1549> to register. Registrations must be received by Wednesday, March 30, 2011. The size of the forum is limited, early registration is encouraged. Forum materials will be provided. Forum hours are 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., registration begins at 5:30 p.m.

We hope to see you at the forum, and send you our best wishes for a safe and productive school year!

Cordially,



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Assistance Center
Education Northwest



Gary D. Jackson
Director, Seattle Region
US Department of Education
Office for Civil Rights



Rosa Melendez
Regional Director
US Department of Justice
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