

Dear Parent or Guardian,

We are writing to inform you that February 14 through February 18, 2011 has been designated as **Respect For All Week** in all New York City public schools. Bullying, intimidation, and other forms of bias-based harassment have no place in our schools or communities, and we all need to work together to address this issue. For this important initiative, the Department of Education is working in collaboration with the New York City Council, United Federation of Teachers (UFT), Council of School Supervisors and Administrators (CSA), and other community partners to raise awareness about diversity and to promote respect for one another.

It is the Department of Education's policy to maintain a safe and supportive learning environment that is free from bias-based harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying on the basis of race, color, creed, ethnicity, national origin, citizenship/immigration status, religion, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, or disability. The Respect For All initiative began in 2007, and in 2008, Chancellor's Regulation A-832 was issued.

To date, several thousand teachers, parent coordinators, and other staff have received Respect For All training. Brochures have been distributed to all students, and schools have designated one or more Respect For All Liaisons who are identified on posters displayed in the school. "Respect For All Week" expands on these efforts and is designed to continue the focus on the importance of promoting respect for diversity and creating inclusive school climates so that all students and other members of the school community feel safe and respected.

All of us grapple with issues of respect every day. Teaching children to respect others is a shared responsibility. **During this week, we are asking each of you to reinforce the message of Respect For All that students will be hearing in school and engage your children and family in meaningful discussions about respect at home.** If you have questions regarding Respect For All Week, feel free to contact your school's principal or Respect For All Liaison, or email RespectForAll@schools.nyc.gov

Thank you for your continued support of your child's education. Please know that the Department of Education, City Council, UFT and CSA are united in our commitment to promoting respect for diversity and fostering inclusive learning environments for all students, and that we will do all we can to help make Respect For All Week a success.

Sincerely,



Cathleen P. Black
Chancellor



Christine C. Quinn, Speaker
New York City Council



Michael Mulgrew, President
United Federation of Teachers



Ernest Logan, President
Council of School Supervisors and Administrators



Robert Jackson, Chair
New York City Council Education Committee