

**Statement from the Kansas State Board of Education
Serious Nature of Bullying
February 8, 2011**

The Kansas State Board of Education believes in providing physically safe and emotionally secure environments for all Kansas students and school staff. The State Board recognizes bullying as a serious issue that creates a negative school environment and inhibits students' ability to learn. For this reason, the State Board supports current state statute requiring each local board of education to adopt and implement a plan to address bullying, including a provision for the training and education of school staff members and students. Each plan should include a method to report incidents of bullying. The State Board encourages Kansas schools to include in their plan a framework for appropriate responses to bullying activities that reinforces and encourages positive conduct and ensures the safety of all students.

Proposed Resolution for Anti-Bullying Awareness Week

The State Board also voted to forward to the Governor and/or Legislature a proposed resolution on designating a week in October of each year as Anti-Bullying Awareness Week. The proposed resolution is shown below:

**Proposed Resolution to Establish Anti-Bullying Awareness Week in Kansas
February 8, 2011**

WHEREAS, The State of Kansas recognizes its responsibility to ensure physically safe and emotionally secure environments for all Kansas students and school staff; and

WHEREAS, Bullying creates a climate of fear among students, inhibiting their ability to learn and contributing to other anti-social behavior; and

WHEREAS, It is important that we acknowledge and heighten awareness about the serious issues and the negative effects of bullying; and

WHEREAS, The Kansas Legislature has required local boards of education to adopt and implement plans to address bullying on and while utilizing school property, including a provision for the training and education of staff members and students; and

WHEREAS, Bullying is a communitywide issue and students, families, and educators all have a role in addressing bullying situations and changing school culture; and

WHEREAS, October has been designated National Anti-Bullying Awareness Month; now, therefore be it RESOLVED, That the first full week of October of each year beginning with October 2011 be designated Anti-Bullying Awareness Week in Kansas as a symbol of our commitment to ensuring safe and nurturing school environments.