

From: [Armbrister, Elton](#)
To: [Amy D. Martin](#)
Cc: [Dana Matheny](#); [Molly Nespor](#); [Shari Rooks](#); [Shelley Jonas](#); [Traci Holder](#)
Subject: Written Public Comments - bullying
Date: Tuesday, September 24, 2019 11:23:53 AM

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of KSDE. Do not click any links or open any attachments unless you trust the sender and know the content is safe.

Kansas Blue Ribbon Task Force on Bullying,
The elementary principals at USD #385 Andover met to discuss this very important issue. A key focus for us is to be preventative. With that in mind, we have focused upon the following:

- **Capturing Kids' Hearts:** In summary it focuses on building relationships among everyone within a school. We empower students to manage and regulate their emotions and behaviors with support. The most powerful part is the relationship between student and teacher, which allows for early intervention.
- **Trauma Informed:** We provide staff professional developed on Trauma Informed Practices and partner with Butler County Special Education, KSDE and area service centers giving us access to behavioral specialists and other experts.
- **Counselors:** Each building has a full time counselor focusing on a variety of topics including managing emotions and how we treat each other.
- **Public and student understanding:** As administrators, we are committed to investigating all reports of bullying. We experience students and the public not understanding how bullying is defined. An obstacle that creates a lack of trust at times is a parent assuming no action has taken place when a principal contacts them to share their findings. Due to FERPA, we cannot disclose information about another child. This can cause a parent to think nothing has been done. Instead, we are not simply able to share details about the other child such as consequences.
- **Frequency of Bullying Incidents:** Situations are commonly reported as "bullying" while often it is not based on the definition and the investigation that takes place. Regardless of whether it is technically bullying or if it is teasing, etc..., we thoroughly investigate, communicate with those involved, set consequences if warranted and log referrals to identify a possible pattern of behavior.

Thank you for your efforts to support the child of Kansas!

Sincerely,

Elton Armbrister, Wheatland Elementary
Traci Holder, Robert Martin Elementary
Shari Rooks, Cottonwood Elementary
Dana Matheny, Meadowlark Elementary
Molly Nespor, Sunflower Elementary
Shelley Jonas, Prairie Creek Elementary

Elton W. Armbrister, Principal
Wheatland Elementary
U.S.D. #385 Andover
15200 E. 21st Street

Wichita, KS 67230
armbrise@usd385.org
ph. 316.218.4820
fax 316.733.3691

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTE: The documents accompanying this transmission contain information from USD 385, Andover Public Schools which is confidential or privileged. The information is intended to be for the use of the individual or entity named on the transmission sheet. If you are not the intended recipient, be aware that any disclosure, copying, distribution, or use of the contents of the telecopy information is prohibited. If you have received this telecopy in error, please notify us by telephone immediately, so that we can arrange for the retrieval of the original documents at no cost to you.