

OCTOBER 2024 – BULLYING STOPS HERE AWARENESS MONTH
DEKALB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
PROCLAMATION STATEMENT

For as long as anyone of us can remember, bullying in schools has been a concern. Research and study over time has now revealed to us that bullying can hinder students' ability to learn and can negatively impact their social-emotional well-being.

Since 1999, the DeKalb County School District has had a policy addressing bullying in schools. Moreover, with the change in the state law in 2010, DeKalb Schools not only revised its policy, but also began what is now known as the "Bullying Stops Here!" Awareness Campaign. This Campaign aligns with research that recommends a comprehensive approach to bullying awareness, not just anti-bullying rules. In DeKalb Schools, this comprehensive approach seeks to bring awareness to all stakeholders through training, consistent/continual messaging, prescribing procedures for addressing allegations, and follow-up and aftercare. This awareness also includes not only general bullying, but companion misbehaviors such as harassment, discrimination, and hazing.

In addition, the DeKalb County School District recognizes that bullying is not just a school issue. Bullying happens throughout society and all of us must be aware of this issue and teach our children by modeling appropriate behavior.

Now, for over a decade, the DeKalb County School District has demonstrated its serious position on student bullying, harassment, discrimination, and hazing through training, messaging, activities, and swift and effective procedures to address allegations. Today, we take a moment to highlight these efforts by taking this occasion to proclaim this month, October 2024, as "Bullying Stops Here!" Awareness Month in the DeKalb County School District. We call on all stakeholders to be "Upstanders, and not Bystanders" because bystanders just stand by, while upstanders stand up. Let us all model appropriate behavior and talk with our children. Remind them to be a "Buddy, not a Bully" and to "Be Nice". Thank you so much for your support of this important effort.