



NEWS RELEASE

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Waterford School District Provides Internationally Recognized Bullying Prevention Program *Bullying Prevention Policy in place in all Waterford Schools*

October 10, 2011, Waterford, Mich. – The month of October is National Bullying Prevention Month, bringing awareness to the effects of bullying, and the responsibility for individuals to prevent and respond to it. School districts in particular are provided with expectations of providing a safe and welcoming environment for students to learn in, so that bullying may be prevented. During a recent Bullying Prevention Summit at the Federal level, U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan shared a national focus to:

- Collaborate with Federal partners to help reduce bullying
- Increase funding for programs that help to ensure safe and healthy students at school
- Foster data-driven decisions for bullying prevention

The Waterford School District is proud to provide both a bullying prevention policy and district-wide bullying prevention program that coincide with Federal efforts. The Olweus Bullying Prevention Program is an internationally recognized, evidence-based approach to preventing and responding to bullying. Its goals are to reduce and prevent bullying incidents, and improve peer relationships among students. Through the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative (provided by the U.S. Departments of Education, Justice, and Health and Human Services) and partnerships of the Waterford FOCUSS (Fostering Optimal Collaboration to Uphold Student Success), Olweus was selected for implementation in 2008 due to its excellence in data-driven results and focus on student relations.

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By spring 2012, six of Waterford's elementary schools will complete the training cycle by joining the other six elementary schools and two middle schools for district-wide programmatic implementation. The program will also be piloted within Waterford Durant High School during this school year. Waterford is one of few districts in the state of Michigan to provide Olweus within each of its school buildings, as well as provide it at the high school level.

To learn more about the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program and how it is implemented in the Waterford School District, contact Janet Ritter, Prevention Specialist and Olweus Trainer at 248-674-0331. For more information on bullying prevention, visit <http://www.stopbullying.gov/>.

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