

## **Youth Empowerment Summits**

Miami Dade County Public Schools is committed to providing opportunities for open dialogue with the stakeholders in our school district, while ensuring that students are not only a part of this process, but many times leading the process. Each year, M-DCPS hosts a Youth Empowerment Summit called "*Speak Your Peace*". This unique initiative involves having one student from every senior high school identified as a Peer Leader. These 45 students then participate in six consecutive training sessions that take place on Saturday mornings to prepare them to lead and facilitate individual Summits that will take place at their senior high school. Training sessions involve students learning about school safety programs; improving communication skills; bullying prevention; the availability of school counseling and school police as a resource; and the importance of their involvement in their school and community. Students are provided with a power point presentation to be used later when they host their school site Summit. The emphasis on shared responsibility promotes the open dialogue that is essential to the process of youth empowerment.

Upon completion of the training sessions, each senior high school prepares for their own Speak Your Peace Youth Empowerment Summit. On a designated evening throughout the District, students, parents, school site staff and community stakeholders are all invited to attend one of these Summits. There are 45 Summits that take place simultaneously. For the last two years, we have had over 5000 attendees throughout the district on this one evening.

Attendees are not only able to learn more about the important school safety programs that we have in our schools throughout the District, but they are also able to participate and contribute ideas during the Summits.

# **“Speak Your Peace” - A Youth Empowerment Summit**

**Students, Parents, Staff, and Community  
Members answer our “Call to Action” and  
“Speak Your Peace”!**



**“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting  
of a fire.” -William Butler Yeats**

**Sample Senior High School  
Auditorium  
TBA  
6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.**



# *“Speak Your Peace”*



## A Youth Empowerment Summit





***Mr. Alberto M. Carvalho,  
Superintendent,  
Miami-Dade County Public Schools***

# ***Welcome***

- Welcome Students, Parents and School Community
- Introduction of Principal
- Introduction of Facilitators
- Why Are We Here?
- What will we be talking about?
- Shared Responsibility

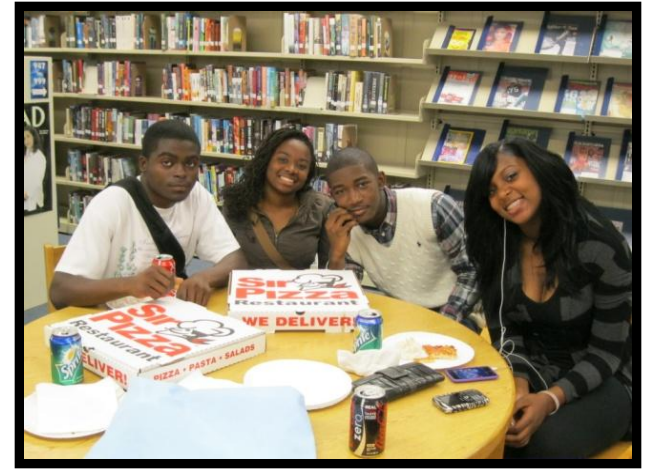
# ***A Call to Action***

## ***“All Eyes, All Hands, All Hearts”***

- Youth violence has become a “hot topic” as a result of rare, but serious incidents which have occurred across our nation.
- Violence has become a major part of our society.
- Movies, Video Games, Music, and even how we communicate.
- We recognize that we, youth, have a strong voice and responsibility to make positive changes that will impact our schools, community and our futures.
- Our Superintendent values our voices and asked us to lead this Summit

# ***Youths Speak the Peace***

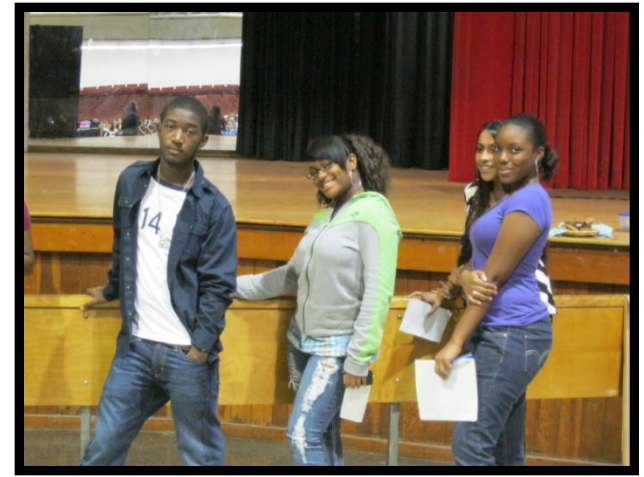
- Superintendent Carvalho recognizes that students play the most critical role in maintaining a safe learning environment.
- Youth listen to each other
- Peer Leaders:
  - One Identified at each Senior High School
  - Peer Leaders attended 5 training sessions about youth violence prevention and to prepare us for this role, as your facilitator.



# Youth Leaders







# Peer Leaders



# ***What is our purpose today?***

- Highlight our District-Wide initiatives which bolster the safety and health of all of our students
- To provide valuable information to you about our school district and the outstanding programs that we have available at each school



**To Empower You!!!**

# *Summit Format*

- Facts About Youth Violence
- Overview of District Initiatives and Programs
- Highlighting School Based Programs
- Audience Discussion



# Miami-Dade County Public Schools is



**Committed to a Safe Learning Environment  
(Emotional and Physical Safety)**

# ***FACTS about Youth Violence***

**SPEAK**

**YOUR**



## ***Did You Know?***

- **According to M-DCPS School Climate Survey results, 75%-90% of students, parents, and staff feel:**
  - **Students are safe and secure in all schools.**
- **M-DCPS statistics indicate a steady decrease in serious incidents and crime**

## ***Did You Know?***

- **Tragic incidents and large scale acts of violence in schools are extremely rare.**
- **Statistics indicate that there is a less than 1% occurrence.**



# ***Responsibility***

Safety is a shared responsibility by ALL school staff, students, parents, and community.

Everyone has a responsibility to do their part to make their school a safe learning environment every day.

# ***Responsibility to Report***

- **Any Bullying and/or Harassment**
- **Anyone making aggressive or violent threats**
- **Anyone behaving violently towards others or property**
- **Anyone who is behaving bizarrely or shows that they lose control especially when angry**
- **Students who use or abuse drugs/alcohol**

# ***Who do I report to?***

- **Identify a Trusted Adult: Identify 3**
- **TRUST Counselor, Guidance Counselor, Social Worker, School Resource Officer, School Psychologist, Teacher, Administrators**
- **305-995-COPS – Anonymous Reporting of crimes or potential safety issues**
- **305-995-CARE – Anonymous Reporting of Bullying / Harassment**



***Breaking News!!***

***District Highlights***

***“Sticks and stones  
may break your bones  
but words can never  
hurt you”***



**Is this true?**

# ***Bullying will not be Tolerated***

- M-DCPS is committed to providing a **safe learning environment** for all students.
- Bullying and harassment is **prohibited** in all schools
- **Awareness, prevention and education** are provided to promote a school atmosphere in which bullying and harassment will **not be tolerated** by students, school board employees, visitors, or volunteers.

# ***District Policy Against Bullying and Harassment***

**A  
w  
a  
r  
e  
n  
e  
s  
s**

**Students**

**Employees**

**Bullying is Prohibited**

**Parents**

**Volunteers**

**E  
d  
u  
c  
a  
t  
i  
o  
n**

**Prevention**

# ***Critical Components of the Policy***

**Bully needs:  
Intervention and  
Consequences**



**Victim needs:  
Intervention and  
PROTECTION**



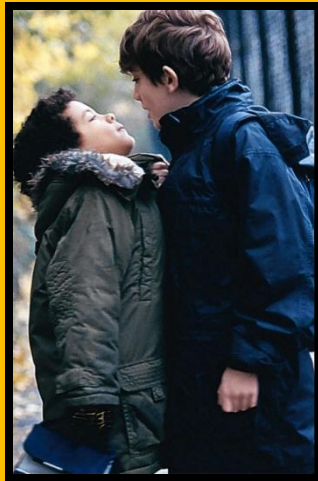
# ***Bullying Defined***

## **Bullying is a:**

- **Pattern of unwanted and repeated behavior**
- **Causes physical hurt or psychological distress**
- Can be written, verbal, or physical behavior, including any threatening, insulting, or dehumanizing gesture by an adult or student
- **Creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive educational environment; causes discomfort or humiliations; or unreasonably interfere with the individual's school performance or participation that includes a noted power differential.**

# Examples of Bullying / Harassment

- Teasing
- Social exclusion
- Threats
- Intimidation
- Stalking
- Physical violence



- Theft
- Sexual, religious, or racial harassment
- Public humiliation
- Destruction of Property
- Cyber-stalking and Cyber-bullying







## Mental Health and Crisis Management Services



Tuesday February 15, 2011

STUDENTS

PARENTS

EMPLOYEES

COMMUNITY

- Psychological Services Home
- MH&CMS Home
- TRUST Home
- Crisis Team Home
- Safe Schools Programs
- Parents
- Students
- Mental Health Issues
- Being Drug Free
- Violence Prevention
- Training
- Contact Us
- Bullying**

### Mental Health and Crisis Management Services

Ms. Suzanne Milano-Berrios, Director  
305-995-7315

#### Parent Support

Parents are the first teachers of all behaviors – good and bad. Since behavior patterns begin at home, it is important to teach your child good communication and social skills. A child who has bonded well with his/her parents and feels warmth and caring from them is much less likely to resort to bullying behavior with peers. The way a child is disciplined at home will establish a pattern for his/her interaction with other children in school. A parent who disciplines a child with yelling or hitting is teaching a child to react in that manner with other people. Often a child who exhibits bullying behavior in school has been the target of that behavior in the home.

Parents need to be cognizant of their children's behavior, appearance, and mood, both for signs of the child being bullied or engaging in bullying behavior. Torn clothes, bruises, loss of appetite, mood changes, and reluctance to go to school are all signs that something is wrong. These are all signs that a child is probably being bullied. Many children fall deeper and deeper into depression as a result of long term bullying. Signs that a child is engaging in bullying behavior might be impulsiveness, showing no empathy for others, or a desire to be in control. Children who bully are often arrogant and boastful winners and poor losers when they engage in competitive games. Parents should also set adequate limits for a child's behavior at home and not allow aggression toward siblings, other family members and peers. Below are some helpful links to help support you in the most important job you'll ever have - Parenting!

- [If Your Child is the Victim](#)
- [If Your Child is the Bully](#)
- [Reporting Procedures](#)
- [Anonymous Reporting Form](#)
- [Helpful Web sites](#)
- [Helpful Books](#) (Bibliotherapy)

Bullying/Harassment  
Anonymous Tip Hotline  
305-995-CARE



1500 Biscayne Boulevard, Rm. 407T : Miami, FL 33132 : Phone: 305-995-7315

# Curriculum

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Bullying and Harassment  
Policy and Curriculum Manual



Artwork by: Kris Reig, Arvida Middle School

- 5 Lessons in every grade level
- Kindergarten – 12<sup>th</sup> grade
- We are the only School District in Florida with a dedicated Prevention Curriculum!!

# BeSafe: Anonymous Reporting System

**TEXT Your Tip Via Cellphone!**



Send text to 274637 (CRIMES)  
Then type in the word keyword: Besafe.  
Then, type your tip, i.e. who, what, when,  
where. (Standard Text Message Rates Apply)

**Submit Tip On-Line!**

Go To  
[www.dadeschools.net](http://www.dadeschools.net)

Or Use the Website!

<http://besafe.dadeschools.net>



**Call In Your Tip!**  
305-995-2677  
Remain Anonymous!



# **BeSafe: Anonymous Reporting System**

## **Submit Tip Online:**

1. Go To:  
[www.dadeschools.net](http://www.dadeschools.net)

OR

[http://  
besafe.dadeschools.net](http://besafe.dadeschools.net)

## **Texting Instructions:**

1. Send text to 274637  
(CRIMES)
2. Then type in the word  
keyword: Besafe
3. Type your tip.  
(Include who, what,  
when, and where.)
4. **Send**

# MIAMI DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## Confidential Web Tip Information System

If this is an urgent matter do not submit it here alone.

Dial 911 if it is an emergency!

Fill out as much information below as possible and click "Submit Tip".

Click [here](#) to follow-up on an existing tip.


**English - [Español](#) - [Français](#)**

Is this tip related to a school or student?

No  Yes

Campus Name

City, State, Country

Event  

What is your relationship with the school?

Student / Grade -

Parent  Faculty  Staff  Administrator

Other -

How are you aware of this incident?

I observed it happen

It happened to me directly

A student told me about it

A co-worker told me about it

I overheard a conversation inadvertently

Other -

Victim(s) name, grade, position and/or relationship

BE SURE AND STILL COMPLETE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE BELOW

Such as Suspect info, vehicles, full description of crime, etc.



# SUSPECT INFORMATION

Number of Suspects

## SUSPECT #1

Suspect's Name:

Alias(es) or Nickname:

Race:

Sex:

Height:

Weight:

Age (or DOB):

Hair Color:

Hair Style:

Eyes:

Suspect's Address, City, State, Zip/Postal Code, Country:

Suspect's Cell Phone and/or Home Phone:

Scars, Marks, Tattoos:

Suspect's Clothing:

Dogs or Animals:

Weapons:

Hangouts

Known Associates:

Gang Affiliation:

Other Suspect Notes:

Suspect's Employment Information:

Employer's Address, City, State, Zip/Postal Code, Country:

Where did you last see this suspect?



# ***Miami-Dade Schools Police***

- The Miami-Dade Schools Police Department is currently the seventh largest law enforcement agency in Miami-Dade County with 155 sworn personnel and provides police services to the fourth largest School District in the United States.

## Specialty areas including:

- School Resource Officers
- Detectives
- Canine Officers
- Bicycle Officers
- Special Response Team (S.R.T)
- Honor Guard Unit
- Aggressive Driving Unit



# ***Miami Dade Schools Police Department***



**Charles J. Hurley, Chief of Miami Dade Schools Police Department  
Speaking with Peer Leaders**

# ***Miami-Dade Schools Police Mission***

- Protect
- Prevention, Intervention and Enforcement
- Empower students to make healthy decisions
- Build trusting relationships with students, families, and the community
- Initiatives and Services
  - Canine Sweeps
  - Truancy Sweeps



# ***TRUST – “To Reach Ultimate Success Together”***



- **TRUST Program:**
  - 111 TRUST Specialists in secondary schools
  - Mental Health Services for students & families; individual, family and group counseling; substance education; Alternative to Suspension Program; crisis prevention/intervention
  - Safe Schools Program



# ***School Resource Officer and TRUST Initiatives***



- BE SAFE Anonymous Reporting System
- Dangers of Over the Counter Medications - Senior High School Presentations
- Building TRUST with Students
- Prevention / Intervention
- Increased communication
- PROM Safety Program

**Mental Health + School Police  
= True Violence Prevention**



# ***Safe Schools Programs***

- Sexual Minority Network – a designated professional in every secondary school receives training to be able to keep all students emotionally and physically safe!!
- Peer Mediation Programs – peer leaders in schools receive specialized training in conflict resolution strategies in order to mediate conflicts with peers.
- Red Ribbon Activities – Year Long activities promoting healthy, drug-free activities.

# School Counseling Professionals





# ***Additional Programs***

- Project Sentry (U.S. Attorney's Office) focuses on young people through anti-gang and anti-gun violence presentations at schools
- Project S.T.A.R.T. (Stop, Think, Ask, React. Tell) ~State Attorney's Office~

The S.T.A.R.T. Program is a one hour multimedia presentation conducted at schools by Assistant State Attorneys

Includes a 5-step decision-making process designed to equip eighth grade students with positive alternatives to violence

# **SCHOOL SAFETY: M-DCPS PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES**

- ❑ Youth Crime Watch
- ❑ Security Cameras
- ❑ TRUST Specialists
- ❑ Student Positive Role Models
- ❑ Crimestoppers
- ❑ Peer Mediation Programs
- ❑ Peer Counseling Programs
- ❑ DFYit  
(Drug Free Youth in Town)
- ❑ School Resource Officers

- ❑ PTA
- ❑ Mentorship programs
- ❑ Non-Violence clubs
- ❑ Zero tolerance policy
- ❑ Extra-curricular activities
- ❑ Pro-active administrators
- ❑ Safety presentations
- ❑ Heritage Panels
- ❑ Anti-Bullying Curriculum
- ❑ Anti-Defamation League
- ❑ Enhanced Communication Plan

# *Sharing Good News...*

We



Our School!



# ***Audience DISCUSSION***



# ***Shared Responsibility***

**As Peer Leaders, we have  
answered the call to take  
responsibility.**



# ***How Can Parents Help?***



- **Volunteer at the school.**
- **Listen and communicate with us – don't just lecture us.**
- **Show interest in what we are doing.**
- **Ask our opinion about things.**
- **Help us think for ourselves/ "think before we act"**
- **Help us know that we can come to you for help even when we have done the wrong things.**

***Thank You for Attending***

