



Department of
Education

Joel I. Klein
Chancellor

Dear Colleagues,

In the February 2nd Principals' Weekly we announced that March 8 through March 12, 2010, has been designated as "Respect For All Week." The Department of Education, in collaboration with the New York City Council, United Federation of Teachers (UFT), and Council of School Supervisors and Administrators (CSA) encourages your full support and participation in this important initiative.

As you know, it is the Department's policy to maintain a safe and supportive learning environment that is free from bias-based harassment, intimidation and/or bullying on the basis of race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender, sexual orientation, disability, and other characteristics. Respect For All Week is designed to continue promoting respect for diversity and creating inclusive school climates so that all students and other members of the school community feel safe and respected.

During this week, you will have the opportunity to highlight and build upon ongoing diversity programs and instruction in your school and to embark upon new projects that engage students in meaningful lessons or other activities that focus on preventing bias-based harassment, intimidation and/or bullying. Resources, including sample lesson plans and websites that offer free curricular resources, have been posted on the [Principals' Portal](#) and on the [Teacher Page](#) of the Department's website. The Office of School and Youth Development (OSYD) will continue to add resources, including suggested activities, to these sites and the [OSYD intranet](#).

We encourage you to engage your school community (students, staff, parents, School Leadership Team, Respect For All Liaison(s) and community-based partners) in planning and implementing instructional and/or other activities during Respect For All Week. **To assist you in your outreach efforts, we are enclosing:**

- 1) A joint letter to teachers regarding Respect For All Week that we ask you to reproduce and place in each teacher's mailbox;**
- 2) A joint letter to parents that we ask you to reproduce and send home to parents; and**
- 3) A flyer aimed at students that can be reproduced and distributed to students or posted throughout the school.**

In addition to your efforts, the UFT and CSA will communicate the importance of this issue and the goals of Respect For All Week to members through emails, websites, and newsletters. Members of the City Council will play an active role in Respect For All Week by visiting schools in their district and participating in activities about bias, bullying, and harassment. A number of community-based organizations will reach out to schools to strengthen or develop working relationships that will extend beyond Respect For All Week.

We encourage you to communicate your plans for Respect For All Week with your Respect For All liaisons as identified in your Consolidated Plan so that best practices can be shared electronically among schools citywide. A celebration will be held later in the school year to showcase outstanding school programs. If you have questions regarding Respect For All Week, please contact your network leader or Connie Cuttle at 212-374-6834 or Ccuttle@schools.nyc.gov.



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Thank you, as always, for your hard work and dedication to our students. Please know that the Department, City Council, UFT and CSA are united in our commitment to the importance of promoting respect for diversity and fostering inclusive learning environments for all students, and that we will do all we can to help make Respect For All Week a success.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Joel I. Klein in black ink.

Joel I. Klein
Chancellor

Handwritten signature of Christine C. Quinn in black ink.

Christine C. Quinn, Speaker
New York City Council

Handwritten signature of Michael Mulgrew in black ink.

Michael Mulgrew, President
United Federation of Teachers
Administrators

Handwritten signature of Ernest Logan in black ink.

Ernest Logan, President
Council of School Supervisors and

Handwritten signature of Robert Jackson in black ink.

Robert Jackson, Chair
New York City Council Education Committee