



June 12, 2013

Dear Parent, Guardian or Friend,

In response to recent bias attacks targeting the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) community in New York City, Schools Chancellor Dennis Walcott and New York City Council Speaker Christine C. Quinn announced a citywide public safety and education initiative to combat hate crimes.

The New York City Council, United Federation of Teachers (UFT), Council of School Supervisors and Administrators (CSA), and other community partners thank the Chancellor for his immediate communication to principals about this work and have come together to support schools as they work to raise awareness about diversity and promote respect and understanding in our city.

As part of this initiative, classroom instruction this month will build on February's Respect for All curriculum, which focused on promoting diversity and tolerance in our city's public schools. Lessons and assemblies to reinforce and highlight the importance of respecting diversity and treating others with dignity will be scheduled at each of our 1,800 schools.

June is officially LGBTQ Pride Month, and we are asking you to reinforce the messages that students will be hearing in school this month by engaging in meaningful discussions about respect at home.

The Department of Education shared many resources as part of Respect For All, and we urge you to consider those that we have highlighted on the following page as students transition from the school community to the larger community during the summer months.

As always, we are united in our commitment to promoting respect for diversity and fostering inclusive learning environments for all students, and we look forward to working with you to help ensure New York City remains a place of dignity and respect for all people.

Sincerely,

Christine C. Quinn, Speaker
NYC Council

Michael Mulgrew, President
United Federation of Teachers

Ernest Logan, President
Council of School Supervisors & Administrators

Robert Jackson, Chair
NYC Council Education Committee