



June 12, 2013

Dear Principals & Teachers,

In the May 21, 2013, edition of Principal's Weekly, Chancellor Walcott informed you that in response to the recent spate of bias attacks in the City targeted at the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ) community, he and City Council Speaker Christine C. Quinn announced a citywide public safety and education initiative to combat hate crimes. He asked you to incorporate anti-bullying lessons into end-of-year assemblies, programs, and curricula. We thank the Chancellor for his quick communication around this issue and thank you in advance for that work.

To support this important initiative, the New York City Council, United Federation of Teachers (UFT), Council of School Supervisors and Administrators (CSA), and other community partners have come together to raise awareness about diversity and to promote respect for one another. On the following page, we have shared a list of lessons you can use this month and in the long term. We understand that this is an especially busy time of year, and we wanted to make the work of finding meaningful, appropriate lessons a little easier.

We know that you address these issues with your students both in and out of the classroom. During these last few weeks of school, please take the opportunity to highlight and build upon your ongoing efforts. We encourage you to incorporate messages of respect and tolerance into your classroom instruction and engage students in meaningful and developmentally appropriate lessons or other activities that focus on preventing bias-based harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying.

Thank you, as always, for your hard work and dedication to our students. Please know that we are united in our commitment to promoting respect for diversity and fostering inclusive learning environments for all students.

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