

Appropriations Recommendation

February 3, 2014

Submitted as a recommendation from the Hazing, Harassment and Bullying Advisory Council at the request of the House Education Committee

Purpose: To achieve safer school environments that ensure each student learns in an environment that is physically and emotionally safe; to build internal and sustainable capacity within school systems to ensure that teachers, staff and students receive training in preventing, recognizing and responding to incidents of hazing, harassment and bullying and in research-based strategies that create positive school climates; and, to create data collection and analysis capacity in order to inform the program and resource deployment strategies needed to create, support, and maintain safer schools.

Total Request: \$ 120,000

Training Support for Systems-Based Prevention Teams

These resources will be used to train school system teams to be able to train and support their colleagues in recognizing and responding to incidents of hazing, harassment and bullying and in implementing research-based strategies to create positive school climates. Examples of specific uses of the funds include:

- Develop a train-the-trainer program
- Underwrite an institute to train large numbers of “trainers” in the most cost effective manner
- Establish and maintain a communications and resource network for trainers

Data Collection and Analysis

These resources will be used to create statewide data collection and analysis capacity in order to inform program and resource deployment strategies for cultivating and strengthening positive, safe school climates. Currently, no such data collection tool exists at the state level. These resources would ensure that school climate surveys are developed and included in the new accountability framework currently under development by the Agency of Education. Specific uses of the funds include:

- Develop or purchase a survey tool
- Train school leaders to administer the tool
- Collect and analyze survey results

Prospective partners in advancing the initiatives referenced above include the Vermont School Boards Insurance Trust, the Vermont School Boards Association, the Vermont Superintendents Association, the Vermont Principals’ Association, the Vermont Human Rights Commission, and the University of Vermont.