

Teach Our Children
129 Church St. #418
New Haven, CT
06510

Vallerie Hudson-Brown
54 Meadow Street
New Haven, CT
06519

Dear Vallerie Hudson-Brown:
RE: NHPS District Bullying Policy Draft dated March 23rd, 2009

After reviewing the NHPS Bullying Policy Draft sent to us on 3/23/09, our leadership team has agreed that while the policy draft represents a significant step forward there remain several points, which are in need of revision.

The first point of contention is under the "Reporting/Investigation" section where it states the following points.

- "Student may anonymously report acts of bullying to teachers and school administrators. **No action will be taken based solely on an anonymous report**"
- "**Parents/guardians and all school personnel** may file written reports of suspected bullying" and,
- "School administrators/Title IX building coordinators are required to investigate any **written reports**" (emphasis ours).

The current language only requires Administrators to investigate written reports and implies that anonymous reports may not be investigated or acted upon. It is our belief that students who are being bullied or have witnessed bullying incidents need to be able to file anonymous reports and have them investigated seriously, and that the last line must be changed to "School administrators must investigate and document all reports of bullying."

With regards to intervention protocols, we believe that the process of intervention must be documented, and suggest that the line "intervention strategies must be progressively implemented" be amended to include the words "**and documented**", so that it can be shown that all intermediate steps were taken before the arrest or expulsion of a student.

We therefore request that these amendments be made to the Bullying Policy draft before its ratification by the Board of Education.

Sincerely,
Jeremiah Levine

Teach Our Children
cc: Dr. Reginald Mayo - NHPS Superintendent
Allan Appel - New Haven Independent