

## Durham Public Schools Board of Education Work Session PRECIS

**Agenda Item:** Durham Public Schools Proclamation-National Bullying Prevention Month

**Building Our Future Strategic Plan Priority:** 1 ☒ 2 ☒ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐

**Staff Liaison Present:** Dr. Nicholas King                      **Phone#:** (919)560-3874  
Dr. Laverne-Mattocks-Perry  
Dr. Melissa Watson  
Dr. Cherice Artis

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### Main Points:

#### Call to Action

- The DPS Board of Education officially proclaims October as National Bullying Prevention Month.
- Schools, students, families, community organizations, and partners are encouraged to engage in awareness and prevention activities throughout October.
- The goal is for every child in Durham to feel safe, valued, and supported.

**Fiscal Implications:** N/A

### Purpose

**Information/Discussion** ☐      **Action** ☒      **Consent** ☐

**Reviewed by:**      ☐ **Finance** \_\_\_\_\_      ☐ **Attorney** \_\_\_\_CM\_\_\_\_



## Durham Public Schools Proclamation National Bullying Prevention Month

WHEREAS, as stated by Superintendent Lewis in his recent message to the Durham Public Schools broader community, Durham Public Schools is and will remain a community where everyone is welcome and where everyone belongs.

WHEREAS, Durham Public Schools is committed to ensuring that every student in our schools, regardless of their background, receives a quality education in a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment.

WHEREAS, we believe this is the right of every Durham Public Schools scholar, and we will uphold that promise every day. Therefore, this proclamation serves as a testament to that commitment to safe, inclusive, nondiscriminatory schooling for every child.

WHEREAS, bullying is the aggressive use of power targeting another person or group of people with repeated, unwanted words or actions, causing emotional or physical harm; and

WHEREAS, bullying occurs in neighborhoods, playgrounds, schools, and online through technology; and

WHEREAS, researchers have concluded that bullying is the most common form of violence, affecting millions of American children and adolescents annually; and

WHEREAS, students who are targets of bullying are at increased risk for depression, anxiety, sleep difficulties, lower academic achievement, and dropping out of school, and often fear such activities as riding the bus, going to school, interacting online, and attending community activities; and,

WHEREAS, children who engage in bullying behaviors are at greater risk of engaging in more serious violent behaviors; and

WHEREAS, children who witness bullying often feel less safe, helpless to stop it, and intimidated; and

WHEREAS, Durham Public Schools is committed to providing a safe, inclusive, and supportive learning environment for all students.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Durham Public Schools Board of Education proclaims October as National Bullying Prevention Month in Durham Public Schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that schools, students, parents, families, community organizations, and local partners are encouraged to participate in awareness and prevention

activities throughout October to ensure that every child and adolescent in Durham feels safe, valued, and supported.

Adopted this \_\_\_\_ day of October, 2025  
Durham Public Schools Board of Education

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Bettina Umstead, DPS Board Chair

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Millicent Rogers, DPS Board Vice Chair

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Natalie Beyer

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Emily Chavez

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Joy Harrell Goff

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Wendell Tabb

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Jessica Carda-Auten