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The Governor's Prevention Partnership offers "first of its kind" guide to help educators comply with new law

Schools attend day-long training

WETHERSFIELD, CT – (October 3, 2011) – More than 130 educators, administrators and guidance counselors, representing schools from Stratford to Enfield gathered on Monday for a day-long training focused on helping schools plan and implement strategies for school climate improvement that are consistent with meeting the requirements of the new anti-bullying law, which adds cyberbullying as a major component.

The training, entitled "Capacity Building for School Climate Improvement and Bullying Prevention", focused on helping more than 38 schools build an approach to create a positive school climate through preparation and planning, implementation and evaluation detailed in a newly developed guide filled with practical tools created by The Partnership.

"We're thrilled to have so many educators show their interest in learning about how to stop bullying and create a more positive social climate in their schools," said Jill Spinetti, President of The Governor's Prevention Partnership. "Bullying is a serious youth issue and we're proud to be at the forefront of training educators about the best methods for helping to comply with the new law."

A highlight of the training, was the introduction of the **Capacity Building for School Climate Improvement and Bullying Prevention Guide**, developed by The Partnership. The guide lays out how a school climate committee can proactively go about implementing the elements necessary to create a positive school climate. The guide also includes a resource audit for current programs and practices, sample climate assessment tools, and a step-by-step process for how to use the data that's collected to drive decisions and create measurable action steps, leading to an improved school climate and fewer bullying incidents.

"The fact that this training was 'sold out' is a testament to the interest and desire that so many educators have in helping to create a positive and safe climate in our schools and, of course, comply with the new law," said Lisa Tregoning, Program Manager, The Governor's Prevention Partnership. "Our guide is designed to help build a framework for creating a sustainable, positive school environment. It helps educators understand how to assess their own individual school climate and to learn about innovative ways on how to enhance it."

The training, held at The Pitkin Center in Wethersfield, CT, was the first part of the 3-part training series being held this fall by the Governor's Prevention Partnership and designed to explore various key components of an anti-bullying school program, all detailed in the guide. Planning for a spring training series also is underway.

Bullying is one of the most widespread and under reported problems within our schools and communities. Connecticut reflects this nationwide problem, with one in four Connecticut high school students reporting being bullied in the past year.

If you are an educator interested in The Partnership's bullying prevention training series to help your school, please log on to preventionworksct.org and click on "Training and Events" or call The Governor's Prevention Partnership at 860-523-8042 ext. 14.

Celebrating more than 20 years of keeping Connecticut kids safe, successful and drug-free, The Governor's Prevention Partnership is a statewide, nonprofit public-private alliance, building a strong, healthy future workforce through leadership in mentoring and prevention of youth violence and bullying, underage drinking, and substance abuse. The Partnership is the only statewide organization focusing exclusively on prevention issues affecting youth.

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