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October - Prevent Bullying and Support Disabled Employment
#BullyFreePEATC / #SupportEmploymentPEATC

October is Bullying Prevention Awareness Month!

What are you doing to #stopbullying13?

A Month of Learning for Bullying Prevention Awareness Month

By: Katie Gorscak, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

This month, groups across the country committed to stop bullying will release new resources, campaigns, and efforts aimed at bringing awareness to this important issue facing our youth. This month serves as a reminder that bullying prevention must be addressed, and one way to accomplish this is through educating ourselves, our communities and the youth in our lives.

In the spirit of lifelong learning on this issue, the Federal Partners in Bullying Prevention are launching several initiatives and resources this month through StopBullying.gov. These efforts are highly important for reaching out not only to parents, teachers, and the youth themselves, but also to the media who play an important role in telling the stories we hear about bullying.

Here are just some of the great efforts in store during Bullying Prevention Awareness Month:

**Media Guidelines for Bullying Prevention.** Media coverage of social issues has a big impact on how communities understand and address problems. Research and expert opinion suggest that certain trends in media coverage of bullying have the potential to do harm. This guidance offers help to journalists, bloggers, the entertainment creative community, and others who are developing content about bullying to engage in responsible reporting on this important topic.

**Youth Engagement Event.** Across the country, youth are encouraged to talk about bullying by organizing bullying prevention social and educational events through youth organizations in their communities. Youth can report back on these activities through our Tumblr page. For more information, visit StopBullying.gov.

**Conversation Starters Mobile App.** Later this month, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) will release an app for parents to help start conversations with their kids about bullying.

**Bullying Prevention Training Center.** This revamped section of the website provides a one-stop-shop for training materials for educators and community leaders. These new materials will be available in late October in our Training Center.

**Dear Colleague Letter.** The Department of Education has issued guidance in the form of a Dear Colleague letter that provides an overview of school districts’ responsibilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to address bullying of students with disabilities. Keep up to date on the latest bullying prevention resources and tools and sign up for e-mail updates from StopBullying.gov.

With all of these new resources and attention, it’s a great time to consider how you can help raise awareness about bullying and take action to stop it. Teens can find inspiration by visiting our Tumblr site. Tell us what you are going to do by engaging on Facebook and Twitter.

Join the conversation on the StopBullying.gov Facebook page.

October is Bullying Prevention Month!
Has your child been the victim of bullying? Are you interested in finding out what you can do to help your child? Register for these upcoming PEATC events to celebrate Bullying Prevention Month!

October 9, 2013: Unity Day Open House and Ice Cream Social
October 18, 2013: Mommy and Me: Nail Painting and Movie Watch Party
October 23, 2013: Cyber Bullying Movie Watch Party

To conclude 2013’s Bullying Prevention Month, PEATC presents our Feature Workshop....

“Bullying Prevention, Everyone’s Responsibility—What Parents Can Do!”
Monday, October 28, 2013
6:30 - 8:30pm
Location: Fairfax County Government Center (Conference room 2-3)
12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22035

Presenter: Jody Manning from PACER’s National Bullying Prevention Center

This presentation is designed for parents and professionals to explore the dynamics of bullying and to learn what they can do to help all children address this issue. The workshop focuses on students with disabilities, and includes a brief review of the applicable laws and available resources.

For more information and to register for these events please contact: Nichole at partners@peatc.org or 703-923-0010

PEATC Workshops and Events October 2013

Wednesday, October 2, 2013
“Understanding Special Education” workshop, 9:30-11:30am, WJCC Public Schools, Central Office at James Blair Room 402, Williamsburg, VA 23187

Thursday, October 10, 2013
“Moving on to Life in the Community: A Resource Fair”, 6:30-9:30pm, Lake Braddock Secondary School, 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke, VA 22015

Saturday, October 12, 2013
“How to Talk so Schools will Listen and Listen so Schools will Talk” workshop presented at The 4th Annual Parent’s Day, 10am – 12pm, William Fleming High School, 3649 Ferncliff Ave NW, Roanoke, VA 24017

Thursday, October 17, 2013
“Positive Behavioral Interventions” workshop, 5:30-8:30pm, Parent Resource Center, Elephant’s Fork Elementary, 2316 William Reid Drive, Mobile Unit 1, Suffolk, VA 23434
Bullying is a hot topic these days, and stories of celebrities who have been bullied are even hotter. Olympic champ Michael Phelps talked about his experiences being bullied and his story generated international interest.

Victoria Beckham (aka Posh Spice, one-fifth of hit pop music group The Spice Girls) has talked openly about being bullied in school. Recently she said, “People would push me around, say they were going to beat me up after school, chase me. It was miserable, my whole schooling, miserable. I tried to be friends with people, but I didn’t fit in. So I kept myself to myself.” There is value to these conversations because it shows that even a beautiful, famous and talented celebrity was tormented in school. If she can be bullied, anyone can.

And even (then) Presidential candidate Barack Obama talked about bullying in his presidential nominee acceptance speech, elevating bullying education to a national platform.

Why are people fascinated with discovering that celebrities were victims of school bullying? Is it comforting for bullying victims to know that someone else (and a celebrity, no less!) shared their fate, i.e., misery loves company? Or maybe it’s nice to know that someone successful had been beaten down and yet rose beyond the experience. In other words, maybe bullying victims really can have the last laugh.

Actress Rosario Dawson said that one of her worst memories was getting all dressed up for a school activity and having the girls “pick on me because I was flat chested.” Her admission about her experiences with school teasing brings more awareness to the issues of how to stop bullying and social aggression.

Discussions about formerly unmentioned topics can result in major cultural changes. For instance, weeks after Betty Ford became First Lady, she underwent a mastectomy for breast cancer - and discussed it publicly. Later, she talked about her alcoholism and drug addictions. In the 1970s and 80s, sharing these issues with the public was considered very risky. Her openness about previously taboo topics made headlines, and the public decided that she was incredibly brave and heroic. As the First Lady, she demonstrated that she was as vulnerable as the rest of us. Because of her openness, it became acceptable for “average people” to discuss these issues and get help.

Years later, Oprah Winfrey talked openly about being sexually abused as a child. She even discussed being impregnated by an abuser when she was fourteen (the child died shortly after birth). People admired her for bringing these once-shameful admissions out in the open to help others avoid the same fate. Child abuse, sexual and otherwise, is now discussed openly and honestly, and victims of abuse now know where to seek the support they need.

A few years ago, baseball great Joe Torre talked to reporters about his experience with domestic violence. His father, a respected NYC police detective, was a physically abusive husband and an emotionally abusive father. Fans and non-fans were fascinated with this aspect of this athlete’s life. Joe wasn’t the first athlete to experience such abuse but it was Joe who used his status and resources to create the Safe at Home Foundation, whose mission is to end the cycle of domestic violence. The public was interested in this sports legend’s experience with bullying (domestic violence is a type of bullying), and Joe was instrumental in publicizing the issue and working to end it.

So when we hear about Chester Bennington, of the rock group Linkin Park, say he was, “knocked around like a rag doll at school for being skinny and looking different, * we know that his message will resonate with many kids, who may be bullying or being bullied themselves. It’s another reminder that bullying hurts and it’s not cool.

Supermodel Tyra Banks has publicly addressed the issue of bullying and reminds young people that gossiping, deceiving, taunting and manipulating are very unfashionable. She tells people that “If you’re pretty but you’re ugly inside, you’re ugly outside too.”

Schools and parents need to impart many bullying prevention strategies to stop kids from abusing others, including looking to today’s celebrities to help deliver key messages about bullying.

Pop culture heroes have incredible influence over young people, so when these celebrities talk about the effects of bullying, it’s an opportunity for adults to reiterate the importance of respect and tolerance for all.

ABOUT THE AUTHORS: Steve Breakstone and Michael Dreiblatt are the co-founders of Balance Educational Services, a company that promotes pro-social behavior and bullying solutions through interactive presentations for students, educators and parents. They are also the authors of How to Stop Bullying & Social Aggression: Elementary Grade Lessons and Activities That Teach Empathy, Friendship, and Respect, released in August of 2008.

Article Source: http://enmarticles.com/?Celebrities- Help-Prevent-Bullying-by-Sharing-Their-Stories&sid=1626078

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**SPECIAL APPS FOR SPECIAL NEEDS - Bullying Prevention Apps**


Through reading and interacting with the Try and Apply sections of this comic, users will: understand the meaning of cyberbully, learn to recognize different forms of cyberbullying, learn different strategies for dealing with a cyberbully, and learn the importance of enlisting the help of a trusted adult when cyberbullied.

**Kindr:** [http://www.kindr.me/](http://www.kindr.me/)

In honor of National Bullying Prevention Month, we’re launching the Kindr Pledge. We believe that kindness is one of the most powerful ways to combat bullying, and that if we all commit to being Kindr, we can get rid of bullying entirely.


Learn what makes a bully a bully and how simply standing up (aka upstanding!) is the most powerful tool a group can have! Playing Awesome Upstander! is fun for kids to play, but also instills upstanding habits.

**TruthLocker:** [http://www.truthlocker.com/](http://www.truthlocker.com/)

TruthLocker is a phone app that privately saves your texts, photos and social media. Saving your daily messages stops others from getting away with being mean. It’s not your word against theirs, it’s their word against the truth.
Disability Employment Awareness

Virginia Governor
Robert F. McDonnell

Disability Employment Awareness Month 2013

CERTIFICATE of RECOGNITION
By virtue of the authority vested in the Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia, there is hereby officially recognized:

DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH
WHEREAS, out of 3.6 million Virginia residents who are employed, more than 153,000 Virginians with disabilities are employed, and these numbers indicate an under-representation of people with disabilities among the gainfully employed; and

WHEREAS, approximately one in five Virginians will have a disability at some point in their lifetime, and it is the responsibility of the citizens of our Commonwealth to encourage these individuals, including our wounded soldiers, to participate fully and equally in the social and economic life of the Commonwealth; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 55 was signed November 16, 2012 to call upon state agencies to work together in order to better promote the value and benefit of employing individuals with disabilities; and

WHEREAS, employers can enhance their businesses and workplaces by creating career opportunities and hiring qualified individuals with disabilities and providing a true "Commonwealth of Opportunity" for all; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Labor’s theme for this year’s national observance: "Because We Are EQUAL to the Task" reflects the reality that people with disabilities have the education, training, experience and desire to be successful in the workplace; and

WHEREAS, Virginians are encouraged to participate fully and equally in the social and economic life of the Commonwealth and to engage in competitive employment;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert F. McDonnell, do hereby recognize October 2013 as DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH in our COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, and I call this observance to the attention of all our citizens.

Robert F. McDonnell
Governor of the Commonwealth

Secretary of the Commonwealth

October - Prevent Bullying and Support Disabled Employment
#BullyFreePEATC / #SupportEmploymentPEATC

Presidential Proclamation
National Disability Employment Awareness Month, 2013

The White House
Office of the Press Secretary
For Immediate Release
September 30, 2013

Presidential Proclamation -- National Disability Employment Awareness Month, 2013

NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH, 2013

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

Our Nation has always drawn its strength from the differences of our people, from a vast range of thought, experience, and ability. Every day, Americans with disabilities enrich our communities and businesses. They are leaders, entrepreneurs, and innovators, each with unique talents to contribute and points of view to express. During National Disability Employment Awareness Month, we nurture our culture of diversity and renew our commitment to building an American workforce that offers inclusion and opportunity for all.

Since the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, we have made great progress in removing barriers for hardworking Americans. Yet today, only 20 percent of Americans with disabilities, including veterans who became disabled while serving our country, participate in our labor force. We need their talent, dedication, and creativity, which is why my Administration proudly supports increased employment opportunities for people with disabilities. To that end, I remain dedicated to implementing Executive Order 13548, which called on Federal agencies to increase recruitment, hiring, and retention of people with disabilities. As a result of our efforts, the Federal Government is hiring people with disabilities at a higher rate than at any point in over three decades. Most recently, we updated the rules to make sure Federal contractors and subcontractors are doing more to recruit, hire, and promote qualified individuals with disabilities, including disabled veterans. And thanks to the Affordable Care Act, States are taking advantage of new options to support and expand home and community-based services.

In the years to come, I will remain committed to ensuring the Federal Government leads by example. This year, as we mark the 40th anniversary of the Rehabilitation Act, I will continue to marshal the full resources of my Administration toward effective and comprehensive implementation.

If we swing wide the doors of opportunity for our family, friends, and neighbors with disabilities, all of us will enjoy the benefits of their professional contributions. This month, let us uphold the ideals of equal access, equal opportunity, and a level playing field for all Americans.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 2013 as National Disability Employment Awareness Month. I urge all Americans to embrace the talents and skills that individuals with disabilities bring to our workplaces and communities and to promote the right to equal employment opportunity for all people.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this thirtieth day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand thirteen, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-eighth.

BARACK OBAMA
Promoting Opportunity for Veterans and Workers With Disabilities
by Secretary Tom Perez, U.S. Department of Labor, August 27, 2013

On my first day as secretary of labor, I made it clear that protecting and promoting opportunity for America’s workers is my top priority. Today, Vice President Biden announced two new actions that will do exactly that - strengthening civil rights laws to create more economic opportunity for veterans and people with disabilities.

For four decades, the Vietnam Era Veterans’ Readjustment Assistance Act and Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act have prohibited employment discrimination on the basis of veteran status or disability. These laws have required federal contractors and subcontractors to affirmatively recruit, hire, train and promote qualified individuals.

But unfortunately, the laws haven’t always worked as intended. People with disabilities, who have an enormous contribution to make to our economy, and veterans, who have risked life and limb on our behalf, are still disproportionately represented among the unemployed and those out of the workforce entirely.

So the steps we are announcing will ensure that qualified workers have more meaningful opportunities to find, secure and keep good jobs. We are providing specific metrics to help contractors measure their progress toward achieving equal opportunity for people with disabilities and protected veterans. We are clarifying expectations, making legal requirements more effective and facilitating compliance with the law.

You can read the rules and other materials on our website at www.dol.gov/ofccp/VEVRAARule and www.dol.gov/ofccp/503Rule.

I believe promoting and protecting opportunity is only possible through collaboration, consensus-building and pragmatic problem-solving. And that has been exactly the protocol here - the department developed these rules through a multiyear process of stakeholder engagement and consultation.

Since 2010, the department’s Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs has met with advocates, policymakers, employer groups, workers and job seekers. We listened to their stories about the challenges facing veterans and people with disabilities in the workforce, and we saw the limitations of the legal requirements designed to assist these populations. We also listened to contractors, and we made appropriate changes to address their concerns about how best to implement these necessary improvements.

We know that these regulations represent a change for contractors and we are ready to facilitate their success. OFCCP staff will be on hand to provide compliance assistance.

Being a federal contractor is a privilege - one that comes with the reasonable responsibility to abide by the law and provide equal employment opportunity to all workers. Today’s new rules make those expectations clearer and more meaningful. We will continue to work with all stakeholders as they implement these changes, promoting opportunity and access for millions of workers across thousands of workplaces.

These new rules are a win-win. They will benefit veterans and people with disabilities, who belong in the economic mainstream of the nation but have faced unfair barriers in the job market. They will benefit employers who do business with the federal government, increasing their access to a large, diverse pool of qualified workers. And they will benefit the entire nation, as these rules help us fulfill the American promise of equal opportunity for all.


SPECIAL APPS FOR SPECIAL NEEDS - Disability Employment-Related Apps

Sign Language Interpreter app
https://support.google.com/plus/answer/2990988?hl=en
Deaf or hearing impaired participants can request other people in the video call who are sign language interpreters to speak for them while in a video call.

Listen Technologies
http://www.listen-tech.com/ada-solutions
ADA Calculator, ALD Locator and other information to help you understand the ADA requirements for assistive listening.

BrailleTouch
BrailleTouch is a revolutionary app for the blind community that lets you type on your touchscreen using braille. Many people have reported typing at 30 words per minute or faster with accuracy.
¿Qué es una acomodación razonable?

De acuerdo al ADA, una acomodación razonable es cualquier modificación o ajuste a un empleo o el entorno de trabajo que permita a un solicitante o empleado calificado con una discapacidad participar en el proceso de solicitud de empleo o realizar las funciones esenciales del trabajo. Las acomodaciones razonables también incluyen ajustes para asegurar que un individuo calificado con una discapacidad tenga derechos y privilegios laborales iguales a los derechos y privilegios de los empleados sin discapacidades. Los consultores de JAN pueden ofrecer a quienes llaman varias ideas de acomodación para su situación específica. Los consultores no pueden determinar cuáles son las acomodaciones razonables para una situación específica, sino que son capaces de proporcionar orientación acerca de la definición de las acomodaciones razonables del EEOC, la agencia que hace cumplir las disposiciones laborales del ADA.

FUENTE: http://askjan.org/espanol/links/faqs.htm#9

What is reasonable accommodation?

In relation to the ADA, reasonable accommodation is any modification or adjustment to a job or the work environment that will enable a qualified applicant or employee with a disability to participate in the application process or to perform essential job functions. Reasonable accommodation also includes adjustments to ensure that a qualified individual with a disability has rights and privileges in employment equal to those of employees without disabilities. JAN consultants can provide callers with various accommodation solution ideas for a specific situation. They cannot tell callers what is reasonable for a specific situation, but are able to provide guidance regarding the ADA’s definition of reasonable accommodation from the EEOC, the enforcing agency for the ADA’s employment provisions.

SOURCE: http://askjan.org/links/faqs.htm#9

Acoso escolar, legislación y recursos para la familia

El acoso escolar o “bullying” es un tema muy importante. Este año se incluyó la definición del término “bullying” en el Código de Virginia. Según esta nueva legislación, el acoso escolar significa, “…cualquier comportamiento agresivo y no deseadito que tiene la intención de dañar, intimidar, humillar a la víctima; involucra un desbalance en poder real y percibido entre el agresor o agresores y la víctima; y se repite con el tiempo o causa trauma severo emocional. El “acoso escolar” incluye acoso escolar cibernético. El ‘acoso escolar’ no incluye una provocación ordinaria, torpeza, argumentos, o peleas entre compañeros” (§ 22.1-276.01). Algunos recursos en español que las familias pueden usar para informarse del acoso escolar son las siguientes:


Acoso escolar cibernético: http://kidshealth.org/parent/en_espanol/emociones/cyberbullying_esp.html#cat20257


¿Están intimidando a su hijo?: http://www.greatschools.org/parenting/social-skills/3410-cb-extras-3-IsYourChildBeingBullied_es.gs

La intimidación: http://www.aacap.org/AACAP/Families_and_Youth/Facts_for_Families/Facts_for_Families_Pages/Spanish/La_Intimidadacion_Bullying_80.aspx

Bullying, Legislation, and Resources for families

Bullying is a very important topic. Earlier this year, “bullying” was defined in the Virginia Code. According to new legislation, bullying means, “…any aggressive and unwanted behavior that is intended to harm, intimidate, or humiliate the victim; involves a real or perceived power imbalance between the aggressor or aggressors and victim; and is repeated over time or causes severe emotional trauma. "Bullying" includes cyber bullying. "Bullying" does not include ordinary teasing, horseplay, argument, or peer conflict” (§ 22.1-276.01). Below are some resources in Spanish that families can use to inform themselves about bullying.


Cyberbullying: http://kidshealth.org/parent/en_espanol/emociones/cyberbullying_esp.html#cat20257


Is Your Child being Bullied?: http://www.greatschools.org/parenting/social-skills/3410-cb-extras-3-IsYourChildBeingBullied_es.gs

Bullying: http://www.aacap.org/AACAP/Families_and_Youth/Facts_for_Families/Facts_for_Families_Pages/Spanish/La_Intimidadacion_Bullying_80.aspx