

Dear Teacher,

We are writing to inform you that February 14 through February 18, 2011 has been designated as “**Respect For All Week**” in all New York City schools. The Department of Education, in collaboration with the New York City Council, United Federation of Teachers (UFT), and Council of School Supervisors and Administrators (CSA), requests your full support and participation in this important initiative.

It is the Department’s policy to maintain a safe and supportive learning environment that is free from bias-based harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying on the basis of race, color, creed, ethnicity, national origin, citizenship/immigration status, religion, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, or disability. **The Respect For All Initiative began in 2007, and in 2008, Chancellor’s Regulation A-832 was issued requiring all public schools to develop plans and take follow-up steps to ensure that schools maintain safe and respectful learning environments.** To date, several thousand teachers, parent coordinators, and other staff have received Respect For All training. Brochures have been distributed to all students, and schools have designated one or more Respect For All Liaisons who are identified on posters displayed in the school. “Respect For All Week” expands on these efforts and is designed to continue the focus on promoting respect for diversity and creating inclusive school climates so that all students and other members of the school community feel safe and respected.

We know that you address these issues with your students both in and out of the classroom. During this week, you will have the opportunity to highlight and build upon your ongoing efforts. **We encourage you to incorporate the message of Respect For All into your classroom instruction and engage students in meaningful and developmentally appropriate lessons or other activities that focus on preventing bias-based harassment, intimidation, and/or bullying during Respect For All Week.** Resources, including sample lesson plans and websites that offer free curricular resources, have been posted on the [Principal’s Portal](#) and the [Guidance Portal](#) of the DOE website. The Office of School and Youth Development (OSYD) will continue to add resources to these sites.

We encourage you to communicate your plans for Respect For All Week with your principal and your school’s RFA Liaisons so that best practices can be shared with other teachers and with other public schools across the city. If you have questions regarding Respect For All Week, please contact your principal or Respect For All Liaison, or email [RespectForAll@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:RespectForAll@schools.nyc.gov)

Thank you, as always, for your hard work and dedication to our students. Please know that the Department, City Council, UFT, and CSA are united in our commitment to promoting respect for diversity and fostering inclusive learning environments for all students, and that we will do all we can to help make Respect For All Week a success.

Sincerely,



Cathleen P. Black  
Chancellor



Christine C. Quinn, Speaker  
New York City Council



Michael Mulgrew, President  
United Federation of Teachers  
Administrators



Ernest Logan, President  
Council of School Supervisors and



Robert Jackson, Chair  
New York City Council Education Committee