



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

October 30, 2014

MEMORANDUM

TO: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents and Public School Academy Directors

FROM: Venessa A. Keesler, Ph.D. 
Deputy Superintendent, Education Services

SUBJECT: Bullying Guidance

As part of National Bullying Prevention Awareness Month, the U.S. Education Department's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) has issued guidance in the form of a letter to educators detailing public schools' responsibilities under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and Title II of Americans with Disabilities Act regarding the bullying of students with disabilities.

If a student with a disability is being bullied, federal law requires schools to take immediate and appropriate action to investigate the issue and, as necessary, take steps to stop the bullying and prevent it from recurring. The letter serves as a reminder that bullying is wrong and must not be tolerated—including against America's 6.5 million students with disabilities, including those students who are not eligible for services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, but are entitled to services under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act.

The links to the Dear Colleague letter and a fact sheet are:

<http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/letters/colleague-bullying-201410.pdf>
and <http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/dcl-factsheet-bullying-201410.pdf>.

Please contact Valerie Felder in the Office of Career and Technical Education, at (517) 335-1066 or felderv@michigan.gov, if you have any questions.

cc: Michigan Education Alliance

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