

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA
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SIGNATURES ON FILE

April 6, 2010

TO: Principals
FROM: Joanne W. Harrison, Ed.D., Deputy Superintendent
Educational Programs & Student Support
VIA: Area Superintendents
SUBJECT: **ANONYMOUS REPORTING**



At the January 19, 2010 School Board Workshop, Anti-Bullying Policy 5.9 was reviewed for changes. During the review, Board members requested that guidance be provided to schools to ensure that all stakeholders are informed of ways in which incidences can be reported anonymously.

Action Steps:

Effectively immediately:

- All schools will have a link on their respective websites' homepages to the Anonymous Reporting/Silence Hurts Tip-line at <http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/siu/tips/>.
- Inform stakeholders of the link via your websites, school announcements, lessons, and newsletters. Be sure to include information about the Emergency/Silence Hurts Tip-line at (754) 321-0911. Inform stakeholders that anyone wishing to file a report can also make a report via email to school911@browardschools.com or via text message by texting 'SBBC' [space], plus the text message to CRIMES (274637).

TipSoft SMS also allows us to respond by text message to the originating cell phone without ever knowing the identity of the individual who left the tip. The user's information is always given an alias and a unique ID before being sent. This secure application allows the tipster and the investigator to have two-way dialog while always keeping the user's identity completely anonymous.

The School Board of Broward County encourages students to report information about any non-urgent illegal activity, such as vandalism, theft, the sale and distribution of drugs or information about crimes that are being planned.

- Finally, inform stakeholders about your Anonymous Reporting Box. Ensure that it is placed at your single point of entry and that the box is checked on a daily basis.

Silence Hurts Lessons are also available for your use with students. Teachers can access the lessons via the BEEP/Learning Village. Lessons are behind the Guidance icon on the right hand side. There you will find the Silence Hurts link.

Questions regarding Anonymous Reporting Procedures should be directed to the **Special Investigative Unit at (754) 321-0725**.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

JWH/LAK/ACN:jw

cc: School Board Members
James F. Notter, Superintendent of Schools
David Golt, Executive Director, Special Investigative Unit & Professional Standards
Area Superintendents
Area Directors
Leah A. Kelly, Executive Director, Student Support Services
Amalio C. Nieves, Coordinator, Office of Prevention Programs