



U.S. Attorney Melinda Haag, San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Torlakson and San Francisco Superintendent of Schools Richard Carranza host the **Bay Area "Stop Bullying" Summit on September 14, 2012 in San Francisco.**

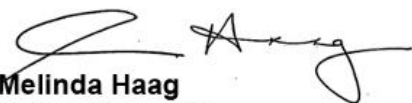
As we begin a new school year, and in anticipation of October as Anti-bullying month, we are pleased to partner with leaders from around the Bay Area, the State of California and beyond to bring focus to bullying prevention.


Bullying and harassment in California schools is occurring at an unacceptable rate. There are multiple negative consequences for students, including higher risk for poor academic performance, depression, suicide and substance abuse. Students who are fearful cannot learn and those that feel unsafe often choose to stay home, rather than attend school. Various laws and regulations have been passed over the years, with the intent of putting an end to the acts of bullying and cyber bullying that disrupt the learning environment. Yet the issue remains. Students are at risk, and parents and school administrators are frustrated and concerned. While pressure increases from legislators, parents and media, funding and staffing decreases, limiting the ability to effectively address these important issues.


We are bringing together Bay Area senior policymakers, educators, law enforcement and community leaders to highlight new programs and promising practices in bullying prevention from local, state and federal legislators and agency officials. Leaders in the social media world, including Facebook, will be part of our collective discussion.


We share the same goal: to create schools that are safe, secure and peaceful. While each day brings challenges to that effort, by having plans and policies in place, providing training to staff, paying close attention to school climate and by using the existing safe school planning process, all schools and students can achieve success.

Sincerely,


Melinda Haag
United States Attorney
Northern District of California


Mayor Edwin Lee
City and County of San Francisco


Tom Torlakson
California State Superintendent
of Public Instruction


Richard A. Carranza
Superintendent of Schools
San Francisco Unified School District