

PRESS RELEASE

Free Evidence-Based Program Materials and Training Available to Address Bullying in Florida Schools

TALLAHASSEE, FL. (October 27, 2008)—The Florida Association of School Administrators (FASA), through a unique partnership with the Hazelden Foundation and the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP), is pleased to announce the availability of assistance for Florida schools to implement the evidence-based *Olweus Bullying Prevention Program* (OBPP).

With the 2008 passage of the Jeffrey Johnston Stand Up for All Students anti-bullying law in Florida, schools are mandated to implement bullying prevention policies and programs. Administered through FASA, this Florida Bullying Prevention Initiative will provide the resources schools need to implement an evidence-based bullying prevention program that has proven results.

The *Olweus Bullying Prevention Program* is being made available to Florida schools through the generous donation of free program materials and training by Hazelden, which will allow for implementation in up to six schools per district or consortium. Up to twenty-five (25) schools will be chosen by February 1, 2009, with the goal of committing more funds for additional schools later in 2009 and 2010. Applications received now will be considered for this first cadre of schools, or may be considered for later funding, if it is available.

OBPP is the most researched and best-known bullying prevention program available today, and is distributed exclusively in the U.S. through Hazelden, a national nonprofit organization founded in 1949 that helps people reclaim their lives from the disease of addiction. With over 35 years of research and successful implementation around the world, OBPP is a whole-school program that has been proven to prevent or reduce bullying throughout a school setting for students in grades 1-8. Many schools that have implemented the program have seen reductions in bullying behavior by 50% or more.

Questions about the Florida Bullying Prevention Initiative and the online application process should be directed to the Florida Association of School Administrators staff person listed below, or visit www.fasa.net/fbpi. Applications are due no later than 11:50 p.m. on December 15, 2008.

Dr. Mike Tremor
Associate Executive Director
Florida Association of School Administrators
326 Williams Street
Tallahassee, FL 32303
Phone: (850) 224-3626
E-mail: mtremor@fasa.net

