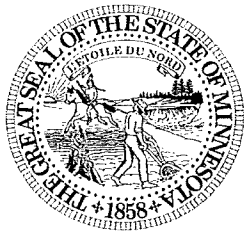
STATE OF MINNESOTA

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT



MARK DAYTON
GOVERNOR

Executive Order 11-33

Establishing the Governor's Task Force on the Prevention of School Bullying

I, Mark Dayton, Governor of the State of Minnesota, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and applicable statutes, do hereby issue this Executive Order:

Whereas, Minnesotans place a high value on education, recognizing that our children are key to future success, economic vitality, social harmony, and quality of life in our State; and

Whereas, children depend upon adults, upon their attitudes and actions, and upon the laws of the State to protect them; and

Whereas, it is a high priority of this administration to ensure that every Minnesota school provides a safe and welcoming environment, where every child is accepted and valued as he or she is, so that each can thrive and learn; and

Whereas, the State has a strong public interest in the safety and well-being of all students in Minnesota schools; and

Whereas, bullying, intimidation, harassment and violence cause very serious and long-lasting damage to the victims and to the entire community; and

Whereas, great success has been achieved in preventing bullying, intimidation and harassment when effective leadership, tracking, enforcement, training, communication, accountability and resource systems are put into place; and

Whereas, parents, teachers, administrators and other responsible adults report that knowledge, capacity, leadership, support and resources are valuable tools in their efforts to respond to and prevent bullying, intimidation and harassment; and

Now, Therefore, I hereby order that:

1. The Governor's Task Force on the Prevention of School Bullying is created, under Minnesota Statutes, Section 15.0593, to examine the state of bullying, harassment and intimidation in Minnesota, including existing laws and regulations, and to advise the Governor's Office and the Legislature on effective and comprehensive policies to ensure the safety of all students in Minnesota schools;

2. The Task Force shall consist of no more than 15 members, appointed as follows:
    a. The Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Education, the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Human Rights, and the Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety;

    b. Four members from the Minnesota State Legislature, one appointed by the Senate Majority Leader, one appointed by the Senate Minority Leader, one appointed by the Speaker of the House and one appointed by the House Minority leader;

    c. The Governor will appoint up to eight additional members, who shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor, and may include individuals with backgrounds and expertise in health professions, pediatrics, psychology or psychiatry; with expertise or special knowledge of legal policy; with experience as advocates for students who have been subjected to bullying; and with teaching or school administration careers.

    d. At the Task Force's first meeting, its members will elect one of them to serve as their chair.

3. The purpose of the Task Force is to:
    a. Study best practices and policies from available literature and experts;

    b. Analyze existing statutes and policies, resources, reported levels of bullying, and consequences of bullying, intimidation and harassment;

    c. Solicit and obtain input from the public, experts, professionals, and victims of bullying, intimidation and harassment;
    d. Clearly define bullying, harassment and intimidation;

    e. Provide recommendations for policy initiatives to the Governor and the Legislature based upon its findings.

4. The Task Force will provide recommendations and convey its findings in a report to the Governor's Office, the Legislature, and the public by August 1, 2012.

5. The Commissioner of Education will provide general administrative and technical support to the task force.

6. The Task Force will make its meetings open to the public and provide an opportunity for public comment.

Under Minnesota Statutes 2011 § 4.035, subdivision 2, this Executive Order is effective 15 days after publication in the State Register and filing with the Secretary of State and shall remain in effect until rescinded by proper authority or it expires in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 2011 § 4.035, subdivision 3.

In Testimony Whereof, I have set my hand on November 29, 2011.

Mark Dayton
Governor

Filed According to Law:

Mark Ritchie
Secretary of State

FILED
NOV 2011
(MN) SECRETARY OF STATE