



Bullying and gangs pose serious threats to student safety and can disrupt the learning process. Cyberbullying is on the rise as bullies turn to instant messaging, e-mail and texting to harass, intimidate, and frighten their victims. Young people who lack a commitment to education and attachment to the school community are more likely to engage in a variety of problem behaviors. School personnel are in an ideal position to detect, prevent and help reduce the negative consequences of bullying, cyberbullying and gang involvement. Schools, parents, students and community members need to work together to create safe school environments and keep students connected to school and committed to education.

HOW OTIS WORKS

Staff members are given an individual access code to the OTIS Program. Each staff member has 45 days to complete a two hour, online program. Professional development credits are then issued to all who complete the course. Districts are notified as participants complete the program and a document is forwarded for the staff member's personnel file. At the end of the school year, each district receives a complete roster of all staff members who have completed the program for that year. All statutes, regulations, and reporting guidelines that are presented in the program are available for duplication from the online program and the MOESC/OTIS website for the staff member's future reference.

New Jersey Statute 6A:16-7.9 requires that districts incorporate into a school's employee training program information regarding the school district policy against harassment, intimidation and bullying:

The Quality Single Accountability Continuum (QSAC) requires at Section B.6.b that "the District has distributed and provided annual training to all staff on the Board of Education approved policy prohibiting harassment, intimidation and bullying."

EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

- To be better able to identify, approach and help bullying victims.
- To understand the negative consequences of bullying on victims, bystanders and bullies.
- To learn how to equip students with the skills, tools, and support needed to respond to bullying.
- To understand how the Internet and cell phones are used to bully and harass.
- To learn ways to help children stay safe online.
- To be able to recognize signs of gang activity.
- To better understand why young people join gangs and the links between gangs, crime and violence.
- To learn about the strategies to help prevent students from joining gangs.

Developed in
Cooperation with
the Guardian
Angels



The OTIS Program has received generous initial support from:



ONLINE TRAINING SEMINARS

Advantages of the OTIS Program:

- Low cost method to satisfy New Jersey in-service requirement to maintain compliance with QSAC.
- Access at anytime, from any computer connected to the internet, at any time of the school year.
- Immediate scheduling of new employee training.
- A record of all your district's participants will be provided annually.
- Provides an alternative to in-service training "in person" at the beginning of each school year.
- Eliminates the need for substitutes and additional related costs of registration, travel and sending staff out of district.
- Professional Development Credits awarded for successful completion of the program.

For more information contact:

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OTIS

Online Training In-Service Seminars

*A Service of the NJ Virtual School
in Cooperation with
The Guardian Angels*



Annual Mandatory In-Service

VOLUME IV: Bullying, Cyberbullying and Gangs:

Engaging the School Community in
Prevention, Awareness and Defense

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