State of Iowa

Executive Department

IN THE NAME AND BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF IOWA

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER EIGHTY-SIX

WHEREAS, All children in Iowa deserve to receive education and go to school each and every day in a safe and respectful learning environment; and

WHEREAS, All children in Iowa deserve a classroom and community that allow them to grow and flourish, and not live in fear of when and where the bullying will occur again.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Terry E. Branstad, Governor of the State of Iowa, declare that the time to end bullying in Iowa is now. I hereby order and direct:

1. **Establishment of the Governor's Office for Bullying Prevention:** The University of Northern Iowa's Center for Violence Prevention ("the Center") shall establish the Governor's Office for Bullying Prevention ("the Office"). The Office's mission shall be to empower schools to provide each and every student with a safe and respectful learning environment.

   The Office shall do the following:

   a. **Training:** Ensure schools have access to training on establishing anti-bullying policies and conducting investigations of complaints of harassment or bullying pursuant to Iowa Code section 280.28. Training shall be made available to schools electronically or through other means.
   b. **24-hour hotline**: The Office, in conjunction with the Iowa Department of Public Health and the Iowa Department of Education, shall promote YourLifeIowa.org, an existing hotline for students who feel threatened, bullied or harassed at school.
   c. **Reporting Procedures**: The Office, working in collaboration with the Iowa Department of Education, shall develop a procedure for the prompt notification of parents or guardians of the victims and alleged perpetrators in reported incidents of harassment or bullying.
   d. **Cyberbullying**: Although bullying is an age-old problem, cyberbullying is new and presents a dynamic challenge. From e-mail, cell phones, text messages, instant messages, websites, social media and other electronic means, bullying and harassment can be a 24-7 issue. The Office is charged with developing guidelines promoting safety from cyberbullying and how to respond to bullying that takes place electronically and interferes with learning at school.
   e. **Data Collection:** The Office will work with schools and the Iowa Department of Education to address inconsistencies in school reporting of bullying and harassment data.
   f. **Varsity Interscholastic Athletic Participation:** The Office will convene a working group including the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union, the Iowa High School Athletic Association, the Iowa Association of School Boards, the School Administrators of Iowa and the Iowa Department of Education to propose administrative rules to the State Board of Education allowing a student previously subject to harassment or bullying as defined by Iowa Code to open enroll and participate immediately in a varsity interscholastic sport.
2. **Bullying and prevention student mentoring pilot program**: The Office shall promote a student mentoring program. This program will promote student leadership in order to prevent and respond to bullying and violence in schools. This program will spread best practices for bullying and violence prevention for middle and high school students.
3. This Order shall apply prospectively as of the date of the signing of this Order. This Order shall be interpreted in accordance with all applicable laws. It is not intended to supersede any law or collective bargaining agreement.

4. If any provision of this Order, or the application of such provision to any person or circumstance, is held to be invalid, the remaining provisions, as applied to any person or circumstance, shall not be affected thereby.
5. This Order is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity, by any party against the State of Iowa, its Departments, Agencies, or Political Subdivisions, or its officers, employees, or agents, or any other person.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed my name and caused the Great Seal of Iowa to be affixed. Done at Des Moines this 28th day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand fifteen.

TERRY E. BRANSTAD
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

PAUL D. PATE
SECRETARY OF STATE