

196 The following Resolution was submitted by Rose Conti, Delegate of Local 807, and
197 Judy DiPaola, Delegate of Local 335:

198
199 **RESOLUTION #4-09**

200 **DIGNITY FOR ALL STUDENTS RESOLUTION**

201
202 **Whereas:** victimized youth are pushed out of schools and into high-risk behaviors.

203
204 **Whereas:** bullying may encompass physical harm, verbal abuse, emotional
205 intimidation and humiliation, which could sabotage and undermine a person's ability
206 to perform school work.

207
208 **Whereas:** bullying is an offensive action that is degrading and humiliating, not only
209 to the individual, but affects larger social groups as well.

210
211 **Whereas:** anti-bullying policies will help public schools create harassment and
212 discrimination free environments. Bullying is an abuse of power, and a significant
213 contributor to stress in our schools.

214
215 **Whereas:** this resolution will reduce the risk of our members becoming victims of
216 violence in the workplace. CSEA members work in public schools and will be
217 empowered to stop bullying in their work environment and make a difference in
218 student's lives.

219
220 **Whereas:** CSEA Western Region 6 Women's Committee has recognized bullying as
221 a serious problem and will continue to work in partnership with the CSEA Education
222 and Training Department to develop program modules. The Region 6 Women's
223 Committee was the first to not only develop an anti-bullying program, but to involve
224 Statewide CSEA and the house of labor to adopt modules as a priority training
225 program for members and staff.

226

227 **Therefore Be It Resolved:** CSEA openly supports the New York State Dignity for All
228 Students Act (A.3661/S.1987). This bill amends the New York Education Law to
229 prohibit harassment against students in school.

230

231 **Therefore Be It Further Resolved:** CSEA supports legislation to prohibit
232 harassment against students in public schools, including harassment based on real
233 or perceived race, color, weight, sex, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious
234 practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, and prohibit
235 discrimination based on any of these characteristics.

236

237 **Therefore Be It Finally Resolved:** CSEA will promote anti-bias related
238 programming as a priority for future workshops at the state, regional and local level.
239 CSEA should recognize the Western Region 6 Women's Committee for their
240 perseverance and diligence in promoting this resolution into a viable training module.

241

242 **Justification / Explanation:** The desire to keep our schools safe is one hallmark of
243 our union's mission to better the lives of working families. The problem of bullying in
244 schools has intensified in recent years. The U.S. Secret Service has concluded that
245 these "bullying" incidents have serious psychological consequences on students and
246 families. They often lead to school violence and in some extreme cases, to shootings
247 where lives have been lost. Accordingly to data collected by the Massachusetts
248 Department of Public Health, 40 percent of gay, lesbian and bisexual high school
249 students will attempt suicide, as opposed to 10 percent of their non-gay peers.

250

251 According to a 2005 Harris Interactive survey, over 30 percent of American school
252 children in grades six through 10 have been bullied or have bullied others.

253 Furthermore, 40 percent of individuals that were bullies as children grow into adults
254 with three or more convictions of assault or battery.

255

256 With the advancement of technology, new avenues for bullying have challenged the
257 traditional form of bullying. Cyber-bullying differs from the more traditional forms of
258 bullying in that it takes place any where and any time. Additionally, its messages and

259 images can be anonymous, difficult to trace and viewed by a much wider and
260 perhaps unintended audience.

261

262 Several states have already enacted legislation to prohibit harassment against
263 students in public schools, including harassment based on real or perceived race,
264 color, weight, sex, national origin, ethnic group, religious, religion practice, disability,
265 sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, and prohibit discrimination based
266 on any combination of these characteristics.

267

268 **RECOMMENDED ACTION: FOR THE PURPOSE OF PLACING THIS**
269 **RESOLUTION BEFORE THE DELEGATES, ON BEHALF OF THE COMMITTEE, I**
270 **MOVE THE ADOPTION OF THIS RESOLUTION AS AMENDED ON LINES 231**
271 **AND 237. THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS A "YES" VOTE.**

272

273

274

275

276

277

278

279

280

281

282

283

284

285

286

287

288

289

290

291