

Dear Parents,

Kerens ISD stands with parents who oppose bullying. At Kerens ISD, the safety of our students is of paramount concern. We strive to ensure that parents and community members have every assurance that we are doing everything in our power to eliminate or reduce threats to the safety of our students and staff.

Kerens ISD takes all reports and allegations of harassment and bullying very seriously. Bullying is not tolerated by Kerens ISD, and policies and procedures have been put into place to discourage this type of behavior. The District currently uses "Bully-Free", a comprehensive and research-based program that offers strategies to teachers and students on how to address bullying behaviors. Additional online resources are available for students, staff, and parents regarding bullying prevention and intervention, such as www.stopbullyingnow.gov and www.pacer.org/bullying/. Faculty training on the Bully-Free program began in August of 2010 and has continued to this day. Students are also provided anti-bullying instruction in the classroom and through outside services such as VOICE, a local non-profit family support organization. Our efforts to help students learn valuable interpersonal skills will continue into the future.

The District consistently works with parents and students as a team to prevent bullying behaviors. Parents are welcome at any time to approach District administrators and personnel as needed for tips on how to address social concerns that may present as bullying behaviors. Students are encouraged to communicate with their parents and teachers when they experience difficulty with socialization, instances of bullying, or threatening behaviors so that these behaviors can be reported and directly addressed with appropriate intervention. If a report is made, representatives from the District take immediate action, implementing the necessary steps to appropriately respond. By working together, we will continue our diligent efforts to make sure our schools are safe, secure, and free from harassment.

Your continued collaboration and communication with your child's school is absolutely necessary as we work together to protect our kids. If your student has any concerns, we would encourage you and your child to visit with a teacher, counselor, or administrator. Parents may call their campus Principal or Central Office with any questions.

Superintendent