

## PROCLAMATION

By the School Board of the City of Norfolk

In Recognition of Bullying Prevention Awareness Month

WHEREAS, bullying is an aggressive and unwanted behavior that is intended to harm, intimidate, or humiliate the victim; involves a real or perceived power imbalance between the aggressor or aggressors and student who is bullied; and is repeated over time or causes severe emotional trauma; and

WHEREAS, bullying can take several different forms, including verbal, physical, sexual, relational, and through technology, such as the Internet and cell phones; and

WHEREAS, over twenty percent of the youth in the United States are estimated to be involved in bullying each year, either as a target or an aggressor; and

WHEREAS, research has concluded that bullying is the most common form of violence affecting school-aged children and adolescents each year; with an estimated one hundred sixty thousand students in kindergarten through twelfth grade miss school every day due to fear of being bullied; and

WHEREAS, the negative effects of bullying, which may include the risk of youth suicide, should be acknowledged; and

WHEREAS, targets of bullying are more likely to suffer physical, emotional, and learning problems which may have long-term effects; and

WHEREAS, the School Board of the City of Norfolk believes it is the collective responsibility of all staff and administration to protect the health, safety and well-being of all students, to promote healthy development, to safeguard against bullying for the protection of the target, aggressor, and bystanders, and to address barriers to learning.

NOW, THEREFORE, the School Board of the City of Norfolk hereby proclaims the month of October, 2020 as Bullying Prevention Awareness Month and encourages all citizens to join in recognizing this worthy observance.