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## NEWS BRIEF

Center for the Prevention of School Violence  
North Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention

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### **BACK TO SCHOOL! BULLIES DON'T BELONG, PARENTS DO, AND EVERYONE NEEDS TO BE READY FOR A CRISIS**

Three school safety issues top the minds of school officials and parents as students return to classrooms this fall across North Carolina. Based upon its work with school officials and parents, the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention – Center for the Prevention of School Violence sees bullying, parent involvement and crisis response as the issues of greatest interest.

“The top strategies we continue to be contacted about by principals, teachers, and parents are preventing bullying, involving parents, and responding to crises,” says DJJDP – Center director Joanne McDaniel. “It is interesting and worth noting that these issues serve as a common thread among these different perspectives. Principals, teachers, and parents have in common an interest in student safety, and they know that preventing bullying, involving parents, and being ready to handle a crisis are keys to that safety.”

To help educate parents, school administrators, teachers, and students about the seriousness of bullying, DJJDP – Center and the Attorney General’s Office are sending a school-year calendar to every school and many educator and parent groups. The calendar features information about bullying, tips to prevent it, and artwork by North Carolina students; the calendar’s theme is “Bullies Don’t Belong.”

With regard to parent involvement, DJJDP – Center encourages schools to take early action to begin developing positive relationships with parents and likewise encourages parents to do the same with schools. The DJJDP – Center suggests schools open lines of communication with parents from the beginning of the school year and that schools work to make parent involvement meaningful and positive. Parents need to become and stay informed about their children’s school.

To aid schools in preparing for possible crises, DJJDP – Center and the Attorney General’s Office continue to work with schools on the critical incident response project. Begun two years ago when starter response kits were sent to schools across the state, continuous effort is being put forth to ensure that schools have critical incident response kits and crisis response plans. Schools continue to receive training in crisis response and are now able to be recognized by the DJJDP – Center and Attorney General’s Office for their preparedness through the Critical Incident Response Recognition Program.