

London Anti-Bullying Coalition Recommendations on Bill 212
January 20, 2009

The LABC has consulted our membership, reviewed Bill 212, and have the following amendment suggestions:

1. In the best interest of all students, a **mandatory attendance policy for the mandated programs for suspended students** should be put in place.
2. The **introduction of non-academic supports in one day suspensions** will prevent youth from accumulating longer suspensions in the future.
3. The reintegration plan for the suspended youth should contain a plan for **ensuring the safety of the victim.**
4. **New accountability guidelines** should be established to ensure local school boards comply with Ministry standards. Parents overwhelmingly report that the biggest obstacle in keeping their children safe in school is lack of accountability on the part of local board administrations.

Having had the opportunity to study Bill 212 and the Safe Schools Strategy Training Manual it is evident that a great deal of time, attention and expertise went into its' preparation. The progressive steps forward, towards violence free schools, are being quickly implemented, given priority status, and kept in the fore front of this government's concern. We were very impressed that Bill 212 included bullying as an infraction for which suspension must be considered. Parents and educators alike can attest to peaceful environments creating higher academic performance, greater community involvement and better mental health for our students. As parent advocates we are always pleased to report to our membership on new initiatives, new legislation, and programming. As constituents of this community, parents are pleased that their voice is being heeded as solutions are considered.

On behalf of the children of London and area, and their parents who struggle valiantly to keep them healthy and safe, please consider these amendments to Bill 212.

Submitted by:

Kathryn Wilkins, Corina Morrison
London Anti-Bullying Coalition

Many Voices...One Vision to eliminate bullying

The London Anti-Bullying Coalition (LABC) was founded in 2004 by concerned parents in London, Ontario. LABC, in its mission of many voices coming together to work towards one vision to eliminate bullying, identified as its goals:

- To increase awareness of the extent and impact of bullying in our community.
- To advocate for education which addresses bullying
- To facilitate change amongst all levels of the community through recognition, ownership and responsibility for bullying.

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