



Arizona Department of Education
Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction John Huppenthal

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**State Superintendent to Participate in Nationally Televised
“Stand Against Bullying” Town Hall:**

*Nearly 25 Percent of Arizona Students Report Being Bullied or Harassed on School
Grounds or Victims of Electronic Bullying*

Phoenix, AZ, February 16, 2011—Tomorrow, Superintendent of Public Instruction Huppenthal will participate in a nationally televised town hall meeting to discuss bullying and the solutions for how schools, lawmakers, and families can face this growing problem head on.

The “Stand Against Bullying” Town Hall meeting will take place in North Canyon High School’s auditorium from 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm. The town hall will be hosted by former U.S. Secretary of Education Bill Bennett and Fox News commentator and analyst Dr. Frank Luntz. In addition to Superintendent Huppenthal, other panelists include: Arizona Attorney General Tom Horne, Pinal County Sheriff Paul Babeu, Phoenix Police Chief Jack Harris, Dr. Milissa Sackus from the Scottsdale School District, and Dr. Sheri Bauman from the University of Arizona.

“Arizona schools and communities understand the link between school safety, positive youth development, and academic success,” said Superintendent Huppenthal. “It is my job as superintendent and the mission of the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) to provide leadership and resources that promote positive youth development and school safety and thereby enhance the academic achievement of Arizona’s youth.”

According to data from a survey of Arizona public high school students in 2009, called the Arizona Youth Risk Behavior Survey:

- 24% of students reported having been bullied or harassed on school grounds

- 23% of students reported being victims of electronic bullying
- The more frequently a student reported being bullied or harassed at school, the more likely they were to report lower grades.

The ADE's School Safety and Prevention Department provides support for all school-based programs that actively promote learning and the development of healthy behaviors in schools and communities. The Department oversees several programs like Arizona Safe and Supportive Schools, School Safety Program, and AZ SAFE project that are designed to create a safe school environment that supports academic achievement. These programs address a variety of issues including violence prevention, substance abuse prevention, and risk behavior prevention. The primary goal is to support schools in implementing programs that promote students to engage in healthy behaviors. ADE prevention programs provide support for school-based initiatives that actively promote learning and the development of healthy behaviors in schools and communities.

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