

EL RANCHO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
SAFE SCHOOLS/HEALTHY STUDENTS GRANT INITIATIVE
September 2012 Newsletter

9/4.6 - Two Day Training for MSW/MFT Interns
9/5 - Presentation on ACCESS to teachers at Rio Vista Elem. & Birney Elem.
9/7 - Meeting with Mental Health Agency Administrators that work with ERUSD
9/7 - Suicide Assessment Training for Counselors and School Psychologists
9/10 - Too Good for Drugs/Violence begins
9/11 - North Ranchito Back-To-School
9/11 - Intern Training
9/13 - Board Meeting
9/18 - ACCESS Presentation to district Preschool Teachers
9/20 - El Rancho High School Back-To-School
9/24 - School Site Coordinator Meeting
9/25 - Core Management Team Meeting
9/25 - Training of SPSP database to Mental Health agency providers

“Every child is entitled to a safe school environment...”



So says the El Rancho Unified School District which believes that each and every student should be free from discrimination and bullying. By partnering with the community ERUSD is fulfilling an obligation to promote mutual respect, tolerance, and acceptance.

It is to this end that California Governor Jerry Brown signed into law three bills imposing new requirements on schools to prevent and respond to acts of bullying and cyber bullying. So what do these new laws entail and how is our district going to adopt, implement or adhere to the new requirements? In brief, the bills and expectation are as follows:

1. AB 1156: This bill broadens the definition of ‘bullying’ and ‘cyber bullying.’ The bill states that bullying is any severe or pervasive physical or verbal act or conduct, including communications made in writing or by means of an electronic act committed by a pupil or group of pupils directed to one or more pupils. And that can be reasonably predicted to have the effect of one or more of the following:

- Placing one or more pupils in fear of harm to person or property
- Causing a pupil to experience a substantially detrimental effect on his or her physical or mental health.
- Causing a pupil to experience substantial interference with his or her academic performance.
- Causing a pupil to experience substantial interference with his or her ability to participate in or benefit from services, activities, or privileges provided by a school.

‘Electronicact’ means the transmission of a communication, message, text, sound or image, or post on a social network website. That includes telephones, wireless devices, computers, or pagers. This bill also requires the Department of Justice and California Department of Education to contract with professional trainers to provide training for school districts, county offices of education, and school site personnel in the prevention of bullying.

2. AB 9: This bill requires districts to adopt a policy that prohibits discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying. The bill also requires schools to adopt a process for receiving and investigating complaints of the above acts which includes:

- A requirement that school personnel witnessing these acts shall take immediate steps to intervene when safe to do so.
- A timeline to investigate and resolve complaints.
- An appeal process afforded the complainant if he or she disagrees with the resolution of the complaint.

3. AB 746: This bill merely amends a previous bill that expired on June 30 which redefined the definition of cyber bullying and was put into Bill A1156.

El Rancho Unified School District has worked long and hard to comply with state and federal regulations regarding behavior under the bullying definition. Over 1,250 administrators, teachers, aides, school police, security officers, cafeteria workers and maintenance workers have been trained in the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, which is made possible by the Safe Schools/Healthy Students grant now in its fourth year. This speaks volumes for the commitment our educators are putting forth to protect and defend those impacted by bullying behavior and give parents peace of mind that their concerns are being aggressively addressed.

Students must feel safe and free of anxiety in order to grow into their fullest potential. We congratulate everyone at ERUSD who has pledged to bring an end to anti-social behavior that feeds on humiliation and intimidation. The Olweus program not only teaches prevention of the widespread forms of bullying, including acts through the Internet, but also teaches bystanders to take a stand against bullying. The program focuses on peaceful resolution to conflict. It’s all about respect.

ERUSD CLASS (Crime Line Assisting School Safety)
Anonymously report criminal activity in and around your school
Email: elranchoclass@yahoo.com
[facebook.com/elranchoclass](https://www.facebook.com/elranchoclass) or twitter.com/erspd

Spotlight On...

**Shireen Zamani Trujillo, LCSW, PPS
ERUSD Mental Health Counselor**

The ERUSD is happy to announce the hiring of Shireen Trujillo as our new mental health counselor servicing all schools within the district. Mrs. Trujillo was most recently employed by the Vista Community Clinic as a licensed clinical social worker. Her duties for our district will include a wide range of mental health programs for students and families, including individual counseling, parent education classes, and staff development programs district-wide. In addition, she will be directly involved with crisis situations at all school sites.

Mrs. Trujillo began her mental health career with a BA degree in psychology from Point Loma Nazarene University followed by advanced work at Loma Linda University. She traveled to the University of Kansas to achieve her Masters degree in social work. It was back to California where she earned her Pupil Personnel Services credentials in school counseling at the University of Redlands. She brings a high degree of education to ERUSD and an impressive range of clinical experience. In her work at Vista Community Clinic she developed a behavioral health department targeting behavioral interventions, crisis assessment, and counseling high-risk children and adults. She spent one year in Madrid, Spain as a Mission Corps volunteer working with inner city teens and college students, providing mentoring, counseling and training of emerging youth leaders. She has served as a counseling intern to students in Mission Viejo. Mrs. Trujillo is conversationally fluent in Spanish and Farsi and used her skills as a bilingual counselor and social worker in Orange County.

Shireen Trujillo says she loves to travel because “it broadens your world view and allows you to try delicious food.” Those travels took her to Southeast Asia, Africa, Western Europe, and Central America – certainly lots of good eating in those parts of the world! Shireen is married and is preparing for her next big adventure – that of motherhood! She and her husband are expecting a baby girl.

Mrs. Trujillo is a passionate advocate for site-based mental health services because she feels schools are on the front lines of intervention. She deems it a privilege to work under the Safe Schools/Healthy Students grant that provides for the many dedicated staff members who are committed to keeping our kids happy, healthy, and safe.

