



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**HUNDREDS OF STATE EDUCATORS, COMMUNITY LEADERS SET TO HEAR FROM  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION EXPERT...**

## **‘Bullying in the Classroom and the Chat Room: Ensuring that every student is safe to learn’**

**WHAT:** The Governor’s Prevention Partnership, the Connecticut Commission on Children, and the State Department of Education will host a standing-room-only forum entitled, “Bullying in the Classroom and the Chat Room,” at the **Legislative Office Building in Hartford on Monday, November 22**. The event will explore the topic of bullying and cyber-bullying among Connecticut’s youth and will include commentary from young people affected by bullying, state policy, and community leaders.

Connecticut reflects this nationwide problem, with one in four Connecticut high school students reporting being bullied in the past year. **As an indicator of growing public interest in this topic, registration for the forum had to be closed about a week after it opened.**

**Kevin Jennings**, Assistant Deputy Secretary and Director, Office of Safe & Drug-Free Schools, U.S. Department of Education, will address a audience of 500 educators, counselors, principals and superintendents, as the forum’s keynote speaker. Jennings heads the federal office responsible for bullying and school safety issues. He led the design of the new federal *Safe and Supportive Schools* grant program and convened the Department of Education’s first-ever bullying summit in 2010.

**WHO:**

- Kevin Jennings, Assistant Deputy Secretary and Director, Office of Safe & Drug-Free Schools, U.S. Department of Education
- Jill Spinetti, President, The Governor’s Prevention Partnership
- Elaine Zimmerman, Executive Director, Connecticut Commission on Children

**Jill Spinetti and Elaine Zimmerman are available for on-camera interviews up until the start of the event.**

**WHEN:** 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., Monday, November 22.

**WHERE:** Room 2-C, Legislative Office Building, 300 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, Conn.