

## Sample Proclamation

*WHEREAS, school bullying has become an increasingly significant problem in the United States and Virginia; and*

*WHEREAS, almost thirty percent of the youth in United States are estimated to be involved in bullying each year, either as a bully or as a victim; and*

*WHEREAS, an estimated one hundred sixty thousand students in kindergarten through twelfth grade miss school every day due to a fear of being bullied; and*

*WHEREAS, bullying can take many forms, including verbal, physical, and most recently in cyberspace, and can happen in many places on and off school grounds; and*

*WHEREAS, it is important for Virginia parents, students, teachers, and school administrators to be aware of bullying, and to encourage discussion of the problem as a school community; and*

*WHEREAS, the VSBA has developed a model policy on anti-bullying to encourage positive behaviors and to eliminate bullying behaviors; and*

*Now, THEREFORE, the Virginia School Boards Association recognizes the month of January 2007, as the VSBA School Bullying Prevention Awareness Month, with the intention that the issue of bullying and its prevention be discussed in Virginia schools and classrooms during that time.*