

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA COMMISSION ON CRIME AND DELINQUENCY

**An Important Message from the
Safe Schools Advocate**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

This letter is to advise you that the Office of Safe Schools Advocate received notice that your child may have been the victim of violence in or around their school. As a result, the Office of Safe Schools Advocate is available to offer their assistance. As a parent/guardian, you have the right to have the advocate:

- 1) Attend the disciplinary hearings at your request. During the hearing the Advocate can present information/testimony and cross examine witnesses;
- 2) Provide assistance and advice on available victim support services;
- 3) Provide information about the disciplinary process and its outcome;
- 4) Provide information about whether the school district acted properly in cases involving weapons;
- 5) Assist in ensuring that the victim will be safe on school property;
- 6) Make reports to the police where the district fails to do so;
- 7) Provide information and recommendations to the District Attorney regarding the impact of the incident on the victim and the victim's family.

As the advocate, I want to make sure you are aware that the Office of Safe Schools Advocate is available to help. The staff and I are committed providing you and your son or daughter support and assistance. Our office is located in the School District of Philadelphia's Education Center located at 440 N. Broad Street in Suite 1198. We are available in the office from 8:30-5:00pm and can be reached at 215-656-5381 or after hours via our hotline, at 1-877-730-6315.

Sincerely,

Kelley B. Hodge, Esq.
Safe School Advocate