



FAU CARD
Department of Exceptional Student
Education
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October 12, 2016

Dear Parents of Students with Autism in Middle and High School,

FAU CARD is working hard to eliminate bullying aimed at students with autism. Bullying, in any form, is to be condemned but bullying targeting students with autism spectrum disorder is, in view, especially bad. Much more must be done to address this problem,

We will be holding a series of research focus groups in our FAU CARD region to address this bullying problem. We want to speak with students at the middle and high school grades who are on the autism spectrum who have been bullied at school or in connection with school. The focus groups will be separated with the middle school age students in one group and the high school age student in another. In order to get the fullest picture, we are asking one parent of each student to also participate and they will have separate groups also. If your child is to participate, we ask that you participate also. The purpose of the groups is for CARD staff and faculty here at FAU to understand what occurred in these bullying situations. Students with ASD and their parents are the only ones who can give us the first-hand information. We plan to use the information obtained to improve our anti-bullying efforts at CARD and for research purposes. See the attached promotional statement which has been submitted with our application to the FAU Institutional Review Board. This research study has been approved by the board.

We have made special provisions to make this a comfortable event for all participants. CARD staff and FAU faculty with expertise in autism will serve as group facilitators. The focus group session will be carefully audio recorded for research purposes. All names will be changed and this, and other measures, will be taken to insure the confidentiality of each participant. We will have food and drinks throughout the event. If either the student or a parent wishes to pause or to leave they are free to do so. Please note that this is a one-time meeting and not an ongoing therapy group. Upon completion of the focus groups, each participant will receive a \$30 Target gift card as a token of our appreciation. I will be happy to answer any and all questions you or your child may have about these groups. Feel free to call me by phone at 561- 251-4104 or email at jscott@fau.edu.

We will hold a total of three groups, all with the same format. One group will be at Jupiter at the FAU MacArthur Campus (November 4th), the second in Delray at the Duncan Conference Center off Military Trail (November 18th) and one at Port St Lucie West at the IRSC Campus (December 2nd). Each event will begin at 6 PM and conclude by 8 PM. The actual group discussion will likely take one and a half hours to complete.

If you are interested in participating, please call me at 561-251-4104 to indicate your interest. It will be important that either I or one of our CARD staff speak with you as the parent to further explain our effort and to answer any questions you may have. You may also reach out to your Clinical Support Specialist with CARD for this purpose. **We will be limiting the number of participants to seven (7) for each group so space is limited and you must register with us to attend.**

So please, if your child has been bullied and, if they, and you, are able to speak about what happened, we very much want to hear from you. You and your son or daughter can make an important contribution and help prevent future bullying of children and youth with autism in our region.

Gratefully,

Jack Scott

FAU CARD Executive Director

561-251-4104 email at jscott@fau.edu