



## Norfolk Schools program focuses on peace



by Karen Hopkins, 13News

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NORFOLK - Norfolk Public Schools is taking a stand against violence.

This month, the district is kicking off a **“Season of Nonviolence.”** Over the next four months, students will be involved in activities focused on peace -- from writing poetry and making posters to studying leaders like Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Gandhi.

Herta Okonkwo with the Hampton Roads Network for Nonviolence is leading the effort. She asked the Norfolk School Board to adopt the program and the board agreed. But she’s not stopping there. Now, State Senator Kenny Alexander (D-89th District) has **introduced a resolution** asking all Virginia schools to adopt the “Season of Nonviolence.”

Okonkwo hopes more school districts will join the effort, especially in light of the tragedy in Newtown Connecticut.

“Time is of the essence,” she wrote.

Sen. Alexander's Senate Joint Resolution #294 was introduced January 9 and referred to the Committee on Rules.