

Bullying Prevention Program

Dignity For All Students

September 20, 2013

Administration

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DIGNITY FOR ALL STUDENTS ACT

- New York State approved this law, effective **July 1, 2012**
**Was approved and implemented within one year of drafted legislation...*
- Dignity for All Students Act: Signed into law by Governor Patterson
- The Board of Education approved Policy # 0115, on March 8, 2011, as part of the implementation of this Act.

D.A.S.A. Overview:

- All public elementary and secondary school students are **protected**.
- DASA prohibits the harassment and discrimination of **students by students** and by **school personnel**.
- DASA prohibits **retaliation** against anyone who reports incidents of bullying.
- Each school's **Code of Conduct** must be amended to reflect the prohibition of discrimination and harassment of students by students or staff in age-appropriate language.

D.A.S.A. Overview: Continued...

- Districts must appoint at least one staff member **(DIGNITY ACT COORDINATOR)** in each school to handle all bullying incidents on school property (including athletic fields, playgrounds, and parking lots), in school buildings, on a school bus/vehicle, as well as at school-sponsored events or activities).
- **All Staff must report** incidents of harassment and/or bullying (Behavior and Harassment Form) <http://www.nea.org/home/43496.htm>
- Analogous to **Mandated Child Protection Reporting**
- Administrators **must report** incidents of bullying or bias-based harassment to the NYS Department of Education

How does DASA define: Bullying?

- Threats, intimidating behavior or abuse on school property that interferes with a student's safety and learning experience or causes a student to be afraid for his or her safety through the expectation of bodily or emotional harm.
 - The Act provides that the bullying conduct or verbal behavior must be *severe or pervasive* enough to substantially interfere with a student's education to be considered harassment under the Act.
 - Specifically, DASA provides protection against bullying conduct based on certain protected classes including, *but not limited to*, the student's actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender, or sex.
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- **Effective on July 1, 2013**, the definition of bullying will include cyber-bullying as well as harassment that occurs off school property that creates a risk for harm or bullying on school property.

D.A.S.A. Bulletin Board:

- There is a Bulletin Board outside of Mr. Steele's office to help promote the principles behind the new law.
- It features success stories and triumphs over adversity, as well as people working and learning together as shown through articles and images.
- Please feel free to contribute...

Olweus is part of every teacher's weekly schedule:

	M	T	W	R	F
8:20-8:27					
8:30-9:14	8A	8B	7B	Common Core 8A-8B-7A-7B	OLWEUS 8B
9:17-10:01	8A	8B	7A	7B	8A

Final Thoughts...

When teachers and staff witness Harassment and/or Bullying, they **MUST** take the following steps:

STEP 1: *Take some reasonable steps to intervene...*

Ex: Separate children, conduct initial assessment of the incident

STEP 2: **REPORT IT !**

Dignity Act Coordinators interview participants and bystanders, inform parent(s), report findings, determine consequences, implement code of conduct, check in with victim, etc...

Thank You!

- Comments and questions