



Carlstadt Public School

Office of the Superintendent
Stephen M. Kollinok
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September 8, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

In January of 2011, the "Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act" became law and took effect with the start of the 2011-12 school year. The Act defines harassment, intimidation and bullying, and specifies procedures when harassment, intimidation or bullying are reported or observed.

The Act requires a formal investigation at the school level if and when an incident, as defined by law, is observed or reported. Parents will be notified if their child is involved in an investigation, and they will be notified of the outcome. We are also required to report the outcome of each investigation to the Board of Education, and to record any findings of harassment, intimidation or bullying in student discipline records.

This important law sets strict formal parameters to which the Carlstadt Public School District has long been committed: that respectful behavior fosters a rich and challenging learning environment. The school district has had numerous programs for the students and staff to assist with promoting a healthy and safe school environment. This year, the Carlstadt School District will be celebrating a "Week of Respect" the week of October 5th, during which additional anti-bullying events will be scheduled.

On the next page, you will find the legal definition of harassment, intimidation and bullying.. By acknowledging receipt of this, you are signifying that you have reviewed the legal definition and Policy 5512. A link to the Carlstadt Board of Education policies and procedures regarding harassment, intimidation and bullying is posted on the district website, at www.carlstadt.org. (please contact the school at 201-672-3000 if you do not have internet access) there you will also find contact information regarding harassment, intimidation and bullying. I would ask that you familiarize yourself with the definition and with the Carlstadt Board of Education policies and procedures regarding harassment, intimidation and bullying.

Additionally, I would also ask that you discuss with your child the importance of respectful and inclusive behavior at home, in the classroom, on the playground, on athletic fields, and in all activities. Please also discuss with your child the use of technology and that this law also pertains to inappropriate texting and pictures sent or comments made on social networks. I thank you in advance for taking the time to review the new anti-bullying law and discussing it with your children.

Sincerely,


Stephen M. Kollinok
Superintendent of Schools

Definition of Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying from NJSA: 18A:37-14

"Harassment, intimidation or bullying" means any gesture, any written, verbal or physical act, or any electronic communication, whether it be a single incident or a series of incidents, that is reasonably perceived as being motivated either by any actual or perceived characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or a mental, physical or sensory disability, or by any other distinguishing characteristic, that takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function, on a school bus, or off school grounds as provided for in section 16 of P,L,201 0, c. 122 (C. 18A:37-15.3), that substantially disrupts or interferes with the orderly operation of the school or the rights of other students and that:

- a. A reasonable person should know, under the circumstances, will have the effect of
 - physically or emotionally harming a student or damaging the student's property, or*
 - placing a student in reasonable fear of physical or emotional harm to his person or*
 - damage to his property;**
 - b. has the effect of insulting or demeaning any student or group of students;*
- or*
- c. creates a hostile educational environment for the student by interfering with a
 - student's education or by severely or pervasively causing physical or emotional harm*
 - to the student.**

L.2002, c.83, s.2; amended 2007, c.129, s.1; 2010, c.122, s.11.