

THE DIGNITY FOR ALL STUDENTS ACT (DASA)

What is The Dignity for All Students Act (DASA)?

The Dignity for All Students Act (Dignity Act) was signed into law on September 13, 2010. The intent of the Dignity Act is to provide all public school students with an environment free from discrimination and harassment, including bullying, taunting or intimidation, as well as to foster civility in public schools. The Dignity Act took effect on July 1, 2012.

What kind of conduct or behavior does the Dignity Act prohibit?

The Dignity Act prohibits harassment against students by students and/or employees on school property, or at a school function. The Dignity Act further prohibits discrimination against students by students and/or employees on school property or at a school function based on a person's actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender (defined to include gender identity or expression), or sex.

The Dignity Act also creates a framework for promoting a more positive school climate through, among other things, training/professional development and classroom curricula.

Who is protected under the Dignity Act?

The Dignity Act protects all New York State public school students from discrimination and harassment by students and/or employees on school property or at a school function.

What is the relationship between bullying and harassment?

Bullying is a form of harassment.

Does the Dignity Act address issues related to cyber bullying and/or conduct that occur off school property?

The Dignity Act prohibits discrimination and harassment of students on school property, including at school functions, by any student and/or employee. However, harassment may include, among other things, the use, both on and off school property, of information technology, including, but not limited to, e-mail, instant messaging, blogs, chat rooms, cell phones, gaming systems and social media websites, to deliberately harass or threaten others. This type of harassment is generally referred to as cyber bullying.

Although the Dignity Act does not specifically address cyber bullying, it, like bullying is considered a form of harassment.

What does The Dignity Act require schools to do to meet this new mandate?

- Develop policies intended to create a school environment that is free from discrimination or harassment.

- Develop guidelines for school training programs to discourage discrimination or harassment that are designed to:
- Raise awareness and sensitivity of school employees to potential discrimination or harassment and;
- Enable employees to prevent and respond to discrimination or harassment.
- Develop guidelines relating to the development of non-discriminatory instructional and counseling methods and require that at least one staff member be trained to handle human relations issues.

DIGNITY ACT COORDINATOR

The school principal will designate the appropriate Guidance Counselor (lower or upper) as the **Dignity Act Coordinator** who will complete and receive the BULLYING COMPLAINT FORM and/or any other related DASA document.

In addition, all principals, assistant principals, and staff developers have received the training and may address Dignity Act issues.

What is the role of the Dignity Act Coordinator?

The Dignity Act Coordinator is the point person for the Dignity Act in the school. Students who have been subjected to discrimination or harassment, parents whose children have been subjected to such behavior or other students or staff who observe such behavior, are encouraged and expected to make a report to the Dignity Act Coordinator.

Where can I find out additional information concerning The Dignity Act?

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/dignityact/resources.html>

BULLYING ANONYMOUS REPORTING FORM

If you have information regarding bullying and would like to report this information anonymously, please fill out the following form to the best of your knowledge. Please note that this form is completely anonymous. *(For the purpose of this form, bullying encompasses bullying, harassment, and discrimination.)*

Victim's Name (last, first, middle)	Sex	Grade
Accused's Name (last, first, middle)	Sex	Grade
Today's Date: / /		

Where did the incident occur?

When did the incident occur?

Date: _____ Time: _____

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Describe in detail if possible, what happened. Use the back of the paper if necessary.

Was the incident witnessed by anyone? _____

Please provide their name(s) if the answer was "Yes".

List evidence of bullying if any (i.e. letters, photos, etc. – attach evidence if possible).

Thank you, this report will be followed up within 2 school/work days.

If you fear a student is in IMMEDIATE danger, please contact the police immediately.

Date Received: _____ Received by: _____

DIGNITY ACT: BULLYING COMPLAINT REPORT FORM

This report must be completed to file a complaint relating to an incident of alleged bullying (for the purpose of this form, bullying, harassment, and discrimination) and turned in to the school Principal/designee.

Complainant Name (last, first, middle)	Sex	Grade
Victim Name (last, first, middle)	Sex	Grade
Accused Name (last, first, middle)	Sex	Grade
Where the incident occur:		
Form submitted to:	Date of Incident	

Describe the location where the incident occurred:

Describe the incident:

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List all witnesses' names and grades:

List evidence of bullying (i.e. letters, photos, etc. – attach if possible):

I agree that all of the information on this form is accurate and true to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Complainant

Date

Name of Person Receiving Bullying Complaint Form

Date

- **Be sure to attach any supporting documentation/evidence/investigation.**

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Action	Agreed to Informal Resolution (Student – Student only)	Formal Resolution	Appeals: Referral to Superintendent / Designee
Date			
Outcome			
Signatures			

Thank you, this report will be followed up within 2 school/work days.

If you fear a student is in IMMEDIATE danger, please contact the police immediately.

DIGNITY ACT: BULLYING WITNESS STATEMENT FORM

This report must be completed when there is a witness to an incident of alleged bullying (*for the purpose of this form, bullying encompasses bullying, harassment, and discrimination.*) One form must be completed for each witness. All witness statements that relate to one incident should be attached to the Bullying Complaint Report Form.

Witness's Name (last, first, middle)	Witness's Title/ Interview Date (Ex. Parent, Student, etc.)
Victim's Name (last, first, middle)	
Accused's Name (last, first, middle)	
Date of Incident:	

Describe the location where the incident took place:

Description of incident witnessed:

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List any other witness names and grades:

List evidence of bullying (i.e. letters, photos, etc. – attach evidence if possible):

I agree that all of the information on this form is accurate and true to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Witness

Date

Name of Person Receiving Bullying Witness Form/Title

Date