



DASA (Dignity for All Students Act)

NEW YORK STATE'S *DIGNITY FOR ALL STUDENTS ACT* (THE DIGNITY ACT) SEEKS TO PROVIDE THE STATE'S PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS WITH A SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT FREE FROM DISCRIMINATION, INTIMIDATION, TAUNTING, HARASSMENT, AND BULLYING ON SCHOOL PROPERTY, A SCHOOL BUS AND/OR AT A SCHOOL FUNCTION.

HOW DOES THE DIGNITY ACT DEFINE "BULLYING"?

Bullying is a conscious, willful, deliberate activity intended to harm in which the bully uses power through actions or intimidation to cause pain and/or misery.

It can be verbal, physical, electronic and/or relational. It can include as its focus, but is not limited to a person's actual or perceived:

- physical attributes,
- mental ability/disability,
- race,
- ethnicity,
- weight,
- religious practice,
- gender,
- sexual orientation,
- socio-economic status, and
- other differences (perceived or real)



HOW DOES THE DIGNITY ACT DEFINE "HARASSMENT"?

Harassment is defined as "creation of a hostile environment by conduct or by verbal threats, intimidation or abuse that has or would have the effect of unreasonably and substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities or benefits, or mental, emotional or physical well-being;..."



WHAT DOES DASA SAY ABOUT CYBERBULLYING?

Cyberbullying is bullying or harassment that takes place through communication using electronic technology. Electronic technology includes devices such as cell phones, computers, and tablets as well as communication tools including social media sites, text messages and websites.

Examples of cyberbullying include mean text messages or emails, rumors sent by email or posted on social networking sites, and embarrassing pictures, videos, websites, or fake profiles.

The *Dignity for All Students Act* contains a cyberbullying amendment, which establishes protocols to respond to cyberbullying. It grants schools authority over communications that occurs off-campus if it creates a hostile environment, a risk of a substantial disruption at school and it is foreseeable that the conduct, threats, intimidation or abuse might reach school property.