

SUBJECT: DIGNITY FOR ALL STUDENTS (BULLYING AND CYBERBULLYING)

The Board is committed to providing a school environment that is free from harassment, bullying and discrimination. Harassment, discrimination, intimidation or bullying and acts of cyberbullying, as defined by New York Education Law Article Two and the Regulations of the Commissioner § 100.2 by students, staff or visitors toward students are strictly prohibited. Therefore, in accordance with such laws and regulations, conduct of this nature is subject to discipline in accordance with the District's Code of Conduct and the Internet Safety and Acceptable Use Policies.

Reports of harassing/discriminatory conduct and bullying (referred to hereafter as "prohibited conduct") shall be made to the Building Principal, Superintendent or the Dignity Act Coordinators. Students and parents/guardians may make an oral or written report of prohibited conduct to District teachers or administrators.

District employees who witness prohibited conduct, or who receive an oral or written report of same, shall promptly orally notify the Building Principal, Superintendent or the Dignity Act Coordinators no later than one school day after such employee witnesses or receives the report. After oral notification, the District employee shall file a written report with the Building Principal, Superintendent or the Principal's or Superintendent's designee not later than two school days after making the oral report.

The Building Principal, Superintendent or the Dignity Act Coordinators shall lead or supervise a thorough investigation of all reports of prohibited conduct, and complete said investigation promptly after receipt of any written reports made. In the event an investigation verifies prohibited conduct occurred, the District shall take prompt actions reasonably calculated to end the prohibited conduct, eliminate any hostile environment, create a more positive school culture and climate, prevent recurrence of the behavior, and provide for the safety of the student or students against whom such prohibited was directed. Retaliation against any individual who, in good faith, reports or assists in the investigation of prohibited conduct is strictly prohibited.

Individuals whose behavior is found to be in violation of this policy will be subject to discipline or removal from the premises in accordance with school policy, including the Code of Conduct. If appropriate, individuals may also be referred to law enforcement officials.

The Building Principal shall make a regular report on data and trends related to harassment, bullying and discrimination to the Superintendent.

The Superintendent shall establish procedures and guidelines to comply with applicable laws and regulations that will include, but not be limited to, staff training and professional development, the method of reporting an incident believed to be in violation of this policy, the procedure for investigation and the prohibition of retaliation for reporting an incident. The District shall also provide required instruction supporting development of a school environment free of harassment, bullying and discrimination having an emphasis on discouraging acts of harassment, bullying (including cyberbullying) and discrimination and including instruction in the safe, responsible use of the Internet and electronic communications.

The Board will review this policy from time to time, but no less than annually, and will make any necessary modifications as required by the applicable laws and regulations.

This policy and any amendments or addendums shall be published in the student handbook and on the District website. At least once each school year, the District shall provide all school employees, students and parents/guardians with a written or electronic copy of this policy and any other policy created by the District in compliance with the Dignity for All Students Act.

If the Superintendent or Principal designates a staff member to receive oral or written reports of harassment, bullying, or discrimination, then the Superintendent or Principal shall publish the name and title of the designee to the school community as an addendum to this policy.

Reference:

NYS Educ. Law §§ 10-13; 8 NYCRR §100.2

Adoption Date: January 7, 2019