

Dignity for All Students Act



The James H. Vernon School





Together Against Bullying

Dignity for All Students Act (DASA)

The Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) was signed into law on September 13, 2010...

The intent of DASA is to “afford all students in public schools an environment free of discrimination and harassment. The purpose of this...is to foster civility in public schools and to prevent and prohibit conduct which is inconsistent with a school’s educational mission.” (Ed Law Article 2 Section 10)

Oyster Bay-East Norwich CSD

*According to Board Policy 7380, “The School District condemns and prohibits all forms of bullying, discrimination and/or harassment of students based on **actual or perceived***

RACE

COLOR

WEIGHT

NATIONAL ORIGIN

ETHNIC GROUP

RELIGION

RELIGIOUS PRACTICE

DISABILITY

SEXUAL ORIENTATION

GENDER IDENTITY

SEX

(not limited to
these categories)

by school employees or students on school property and at school-sponsored activities and events that take place at locations off school property. In addition, any act of bullying, discrimination and/or harassment, outside of school sponsored events, which can reasonably be expected to materially and substantially disrupt the education process may be subject to discipline.”

Characteristics of Bullying



Cyberbullying is defined as harassment or bullying by any form of electric communication and includes incidents occurring off school property that create or would foreseeably create a risk of substantial disruption within the school environment.

According to the United States Department of Education (USDOE), bullying generally involves the following characteristics:

- Imbalance of Power: an imbalance of power involves the use of physical strength, popularity, or access to embarrassing information to hurt or control another person.
- Repetition: occurring more than once or having the potential to occur more than once.
- Intent to Harm: The person bullying has the goal to cause harm. Bullying is not accidental.

Harassment



Harassment is defined as the creation of a hostile environment by conduct or verbal threats, intimidation, or abuse that has or would have the following effect:

- 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; or
- Reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause a student to fear for his or her physical safety; or
- Reasonably caused or would reasonably be expected to cause physical injury or emotional harm to a student; or
- Occurs off school property and creates or would foreseeably create a risk of substantial disruption within the school environment, where it is foreseeable that the conduct, threats, intimidation or abuse might reach school property.

Discrimination



Discrimination is the act of denying rights, benefits, justice, equitable treatment or access to facilities available to all others, to an individual or group of people because of the group, class or category to which that person belongs. While not limited to the following categories, no student shall be subjected to discrimination based on their actual or perceived...

- RACE
- COLOR
- WEIGHT
- NATIONAL ORIGIN
- ETHNIC GROUP
- RELIGION
- RELIGIOUS PRACTICE
- DISABILITY
- SEXUAL ORIENTATION
- GENDER IDENTITY
- SEX

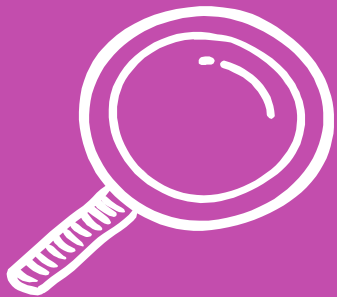
DASA Coordinators

Districts must appoint at least one staff member 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).

DASA Coordinators:

Dr. Valerie Vacchio, Principal

Rebecca Menuzzo, Assistant Principal



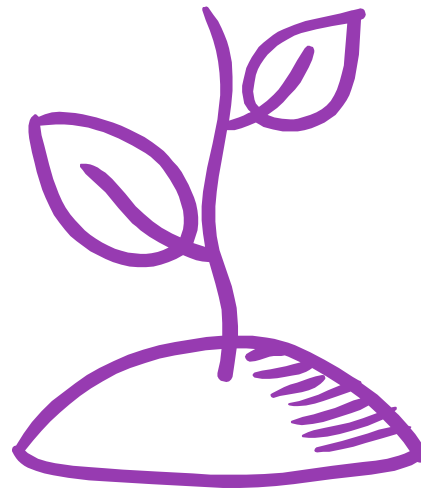
DASA Updates

Transgender/Gender-Nonconforming Students (2015)

In July of 2015, the NYSED provided guidance to school districts on how to create a safe and supportive school environment for transgender and gender nonconforming students.

Common Areas of Concern Related to Transgender Students

- Names and Pronouns
- Privacy, Confidentiality, and Student Records
- Gender-Based Activities, Rules, Policies, and Practices.



DASA Updates

Immigrant Students (2017)

In February of 2017, the NYSED issued field advisories to assist in combatting immigration-related harassment, bullying, and discrimination in schools. This guidance asserted that

- all students between the ages of 5 and 21 who have not received a high school diploma are entitled to attend public schools in the district in which they reside;
- undocumented children have the right to attend school full time as long as they meet age/residency requirements as established by state law;
- schools should not ask questions related to immigration status or give the impression that immigration status is used in making enrollment decisions;
- law enforcement officers (including ICE) may not remove a student from school property or interrogate a student without the consent of a parent/guardian; as such, immigration officials may not access students while at school or obtain private student records.

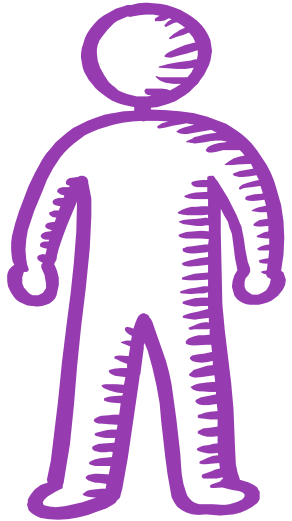


DASA Updates

Amendments (2018)

The following are reports that would qualify for an incident of harassment, bullying, and/or discrimination:

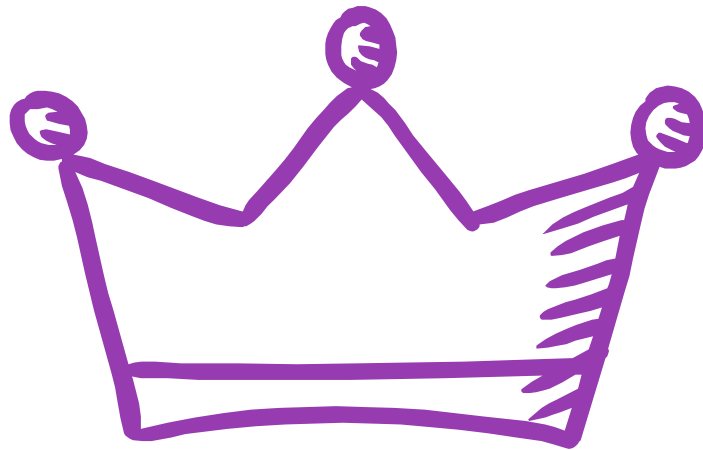
- a report regarding the denial of access to school facilities including, but not limited to, restrooms, changing rooms, locker rooms and/or field trips
- a report regarding application of a dress code, specific grooming, or appearance
- a report regarding the use of name(s) and pronoun(s) or the pronunciation of name(s)
- a report regarding any other form of harassment, bullying, and/or discrimination

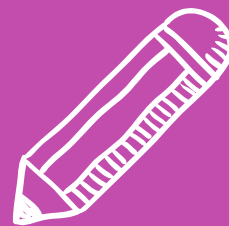
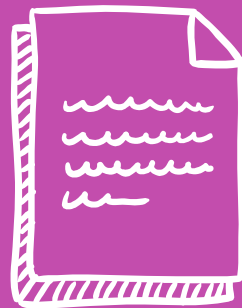


DASA Updates

The Crown Act (2019)

The Crown Act amended the Human Rights Law and Dignity for All Students Act to clarify that "discrimination based on race" includes hairstyles or traits associated with race. Section 11 of the Dignity Act was amended to include "traits historically associated with race, including but not limited to hair texture and protective hairstyles."





Employee Reporting

School employees who witness or receive a report of harassment, bullying or discrimination must notify the principal, superintendent or designee (DAC) within one school day after witnessing the incident or receiving the report and must file a written report within two school days thereafter. (Incident Referral Form)

THANK YOU

for all you do to make Vernon
a safe place for our students!

