



James H. Vernon School

# DASA

*The New York State  
Dignity for All Students Act*  
Helpful Information for Parents & Guardians



*For more information, visit  
[www.p12.nysed.gov/dignityact](http://www.p12.nysed.gov/dignityact)*



*The New York State 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)*

*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  
sex*

*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.”*



## Frequently Asked Questions

### *How is bullying defined?*

Bullying is defined, in general, as a variety of negative acts carried out repeatedly over time. It involves a real or perceived imbalance of power and can take three forms:

- **physical** (including, but not limited to, hitting, kicking, spitting, pushing, taking personal belongings);
- **verbal** (including, but not limited to, taunting, malicious teasing, name calling, making threats); and
- **psychological** (including, but not limited to, spreading rumors; manipulating social relationships; or engaging in social exclusion, extortion, or intimidation).

### *What is cyberbullying? What are the effects of cyberbullying?*

Cyberbullying includes, but is not limited to, the following misuses of technology: harassing, teasing, intimidating, threatening, or terrorizing another student or staff member by way of any technological tool, such as sending or posting inappropriate or derogatory e-mail messages, instant messages, text messages, digital pictures or images, or Web site postings (including blogs). Cyberbullying may involve student use of the School District Internet system or student use of personal digital devices. Cyberbullying has the effect of

- physically, emotionally, or mentally harming a student;
- placing a student in reasonable **fear of physical, emotional, or mental harm;**
- placing a student in reasonable **fear of damage to or loss of personal property; and**
- **creating an intimidating or hostile environment** that substantially interferes with a student's educational opportunities.

### *What can I do if I believe my child or another child is being bullied?*

If you suspect your child or another child is being bullied, it is important that you reach out to a staff member right away (see reverse). The School District will investigate all complaints of bullying, discrimination, and/or harassment, either formal or informal, and take prompt corrective measures, as necessary. Actions will be reasonably calculated to

- end the harassment, bullying, or discrimination,
- eliminate any hostile environment,
- create a more positive school culture and climate,
- **prevent recurrence of behavior,** and
- **provide for the safety of the student(s)** against whom the bullying, harassment or discrimination was directed.

If you suspect your child or another child is being subjected to any form of bullying, discrimination, and/or harassment, it is important to contact a staff member right away.

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*For more information, please visit the Oyster Bay-East Norwich CSD website at [www.obenschools.org](http://www.obenschools.org) or the NYS Education Department website at [www.p12.nysed.gov/dignityact](http://www.p12.nysed.gov/dignityact)*



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**OYSTER BAY-EAST NORWICH CSD**

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