

Dignity Act Intent

The goal of the Dignity Act is to create a safe and supportive school climate where students can learn and focus, rather than fear being discriminated against and/or verbally and/or physically harassed.

All public elementary and secondary school students have the right to attend school in a safe, welcoming, considerate, and caring environment.



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The New York State Dignity for All Students Act (Dignity Act)

Effective July 1, 2012

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Dignity For All Students Act Overview

The Dignity Act takes effect on July 1, 2012.

- The New York State Dignity For All Students Act (Dignity Act) was signed into law on September 13, 2010. This legislation amended State Education Law by creating a new Article 2 - *Dignity for All Students*.
- The Dignity Act states that **NO** student shall be subjected to harassment or discrimination by employees or students on school property or at a school function based on their actual or perceived **race**, **color**, **weight**, **national origin**, **ethnic group**, **religion**, **religious practice**, **disability**, **sexual orientation**, **gender**, or **sex**.
- The Dignity Act amended Section 801-a of New York State Education Law regarding instruction in civility, citizenship and character education by expanding the concepts of tolerance, respect for others, and dignity.
- The Dignity Act also amended Section 2801 of the Education Law, instructing Boards of Education to include language in the codes of conduct to comply with the Dignity Act.

Highlights

Q Who is protected by the Dignity Act?

A: All public elementary and secondary school students are protected by the Dignity Act.

Q: What does the Dignity Act prohibit?

A: The Dignity Act prohibits the harassment and discrimination of students by students and by school personnel.

Q: How does the Dignity Act relate to bullying and hazing?

A: Bullying and hazing are forms of harassment and discrimination.

Q: What physical spaces are covered by the Dignity Act?

A: The Dignity Act applies to behavior 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.

Q: How does the Dignity Act relate to the school's Code of Conduct?

A: The Code of Conduct must be amended to reflect the prohibition of discrimination and harassment of students by students or staff — in age appropriate plain language.

To learn more about the Dignity for All Students Act, visit:
www.p12.nysed.gov/dignityact



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