

## **The Dignity for All Students Act – What Do Parents Need to Know?**

New York State’s Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) 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.

DASA defines harassment 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.”

Onteora is firmly committed to upholding the tenets of DASA, and the Board of Education approved the following Dignity for All Students Act coordinators.

### **School Building Information Contact information for Dignity Act Coordinator:**

#### **Middle/High School**

Dieter Schimmelfennig – Vice Principal, HS  
845-657-2373 ext. 2110  
E-mail: [dschimmelfennig@onteora.k12.ny.us](mailto:dschimmelfennig@onteora.k12.ny.us)

#### **Bennett Elementary**

Gabriel Buono, Principal  
845-657-2354  
E-mail: [gbuono@onteora.k12.ny.us](mailto:gbuono@onteora.k12.ny.us)

#### **Phoenicia Elementary**

Linda Sella, Principal  
845-688-5580  
E-mail: [lsella@onteora.k12.ny.us](mailto:lsella@onteora.k12.ny.us)

#### **Woodstock Elementary**

Scott Richards, Principal  
845-679-2316  
E-mail: [srichards@onteora.k12.ny.us](mailto:srichards@onteora.k12.ny.us)

These coordinators will help individual schools within the Onteora Central School District with collecting and reporting data regarding material incidents of discrimination and harassment.

The DASA legislation also amends 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 to include: an awareness and sensitivity in the relations of people, including but not limited to, different races, weights, national origins, ethnic groups, religions, religious practices, mental or physical abilities, sexual orientations, gender identity, and sexes.

The legislation also further amended Section 2801 of the Education Law by requiring Boards of Education to include language addressing DASA in their codes of conduct.

To learn more about DASA, visit the [New York State Education Department website](#).