



# Public Schools of Edison Township

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## **Reporting of Bias Incidents**

Dear Parents and Guardians:

We want to make you aware of important and serious information regarding the reporting of bias incidents. New Jersey laws and school district policies address how we must respond to bias incidents.

The Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office defines a bias incident as "any suspected or confirmed offense or unlawful act which occurs to a person, private property, or public property because of race, color, religion, gender, handicap, sexual orientation or ethnicity."

The Middlesex County Prosecutor's Office in accordance with the New Jersey State Attorney General's Guidelines requires that all suspected or confirmed bias incidents or crimes be reported to the Bias Crimes and Community Relations Unit within 24 hours.

We ask you to discuss with your child how he or she must avoid name calling, note writing or other actions which show bias against any of the categories listed above. Our teachers and school counselors continuously teach respect for all people and property. We instruct students that it is against the law to show bias based on race, color, religion, gender, handicap, sexual orientation or ethnicity.

When any and all bias incidents occur, the school must report them to the local police agency and also follow the Board of Education discipline policy. We want you to be aware of our procedures in advance of the occurrence of an incident. We hope that we can work together to teach respect and avoid any bias incident situations.

Thank you for your help in this important matter.

**Nothing Less Than Excellence**