

## **Croton-Harmon Union Free School District**

### **School Codes of Conduct Require Local Control and Regulatory Flexibility**

Whereas a safe and orderly school environment is essential for education; and

Whereas school codes should support rigorous and effective discipline in the school that is at the same time kind and supportive of student's social and emotional well-being; and

Whereas the proposed New York State Senate Bill S3036A (Montgomery) / New York State Assembly Bill A3873A (Nolan) would create a lengthy, complex and highly regulatory system affecting conduct on school property and would provide for a process of disciplinary action for violations of that code; and

Whereas we, the Board of Trustees of the Croton-Harmon Union Free School District, agree with the intent of this legislation, but disagree with the implementation, feeling that the detailed, rigid procedures included in the proposed legislation belong in NY State Education Department guidance, not in law; and

Whereas given the complexity of the subject matter and the prescriptive text, this bill will undoubtedly require future amendments due to implementation issues, revised protocols, etc., and as legislation, any amendment would need to go through the full legislative process; and

Whereas the bill, as written, would yield unintended consequences for school districts and students (particularly for students with disabilities); and

Whereas we believe that local school districts, their administration, and their boards of trustees are best informed and equipped to enact school codes of conduct;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that:

The Board of Education of the Croton-Harmon Union Free School District calls upon the Governor of the State of New York, the New York State Assembly, and the New York State Senate to reject the proposed legislation on School Codes of Conduct contained in New York State Senate Bill S3036A (Montgomery) / New York State Assembly Bill A3873A (Nolan), and;

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Education of the Croton-Harmon Union Free School District calls upon the Governor of the State of New York, the New York State Senate and the New York State Assembly to direct the State Education Department to develop regulations in this regard that would support local school districts in enacting or revising their own Codes of Conduct to forward kind, yet rigorous and effective discipline in their schools.

Adopted: March 22, 2018

Respectfully submitted by:

The Croton Harmon Board of Education: Iris Bugliosi, President; Andrea Furey, Vice President; Sarah Carrier, Joshua Diamond, Neal Haber, Elizabeth Lynam, and Giuseppina Miller

The Board of Education directs the District Clerk to send a copy of this resolution to the following people:

- Sandra Galef, State Assemblywoman
- Terrence Murphy, State Senator
- Andrew Cuomo, the Governor of the State of New York
- Carl Heastie, the Speaker of the New York State Assembly
- John Flanagan, the Majority Leader of the New York State Senate
- Velmanette Montgomery, State Assemblywoman, Sponsor of S3036A
- Catherine Nolan, State Assemblywoman, Chair, Committee on Education, Sponsor of A3873A
- Carl L Marcellino, State Senate, Chair, Committee on Education
- Judith Johnson, NYS Board of Regents
- Betty Rosa, Chancellor, NYS Board of Regents
- MaryEllen Elia, NYS Commissioner of Education
- Lisa Davis, Executive Director, Westchester Putnam School Boards Association



