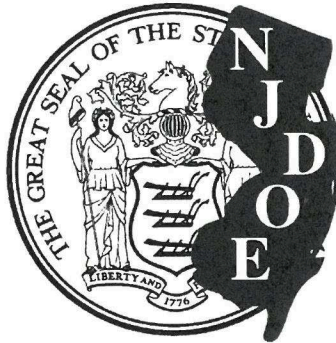


*Guidance for Parents
on the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act
(P.L.2010, c.122)*



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INTRODUCTION

Over the last several years, student bullying has received increased attention as a serious problem in schools. School bullying has been reported to be involved in student suicides across the nation, including in New Jersey. The importance of protecting students from bullying has been emphasized through the *Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act* (ABR) that became a law in New Jersey in January 2011.

This law mainly added requirements to the original bullying law that began in 2003. The new law made New Jersey's response to student bullying stronger. A copy of the ABR is available online on the New Jersey Legislature's website at http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2010/Bills/PL10/122_.PDF

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) has developed this guide to help parents understand their rights and know the duties of the school districts and schools. The NJDOE has tried to design this guide to be straightforward and easy for parents to read.

The guide begins with an explanation of words (Glossary of Terms) and shortened forms of words (Abbreviations) that are used in the guide. The guide is then divided into two main parts. Each part has several sections.

- The first part provides an overview of the requirements in the ABR, which includes sections on the following information:
 - The schools and conduct that are covered under the law;
 - The steps schools must follow once they have been provided a report of a suspected act of bullying; and
 - Appeals and other options for parents if they continue to be concerned with a bullying incident at their children's school.

- The second part of the guide provides parents with information to use to respond to bullying at home, in the community and in their children's schools. It includes ideas for:
 - Getting involved with school anti-bullying programs;
 - Teaching their children empathy and respect for others; and
 - Taking action if one of your children bullies others or is a victim of bullying.

The guide also includes a list of online, local and national bullying prevention resources and several appendices with more information on important topics covered throughout the guide. Information taken from expert resources is either identified in the text or in a footnote by the related information. The specific source for all footnotes is provided in the Reference section on page 54. Citations for specific requirements in the ABR are included throughout the guide, when the information comes directly from the law.