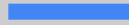


Dignity for All Students

2020-2021



The objectives of this presentation are...

- To explain what the Dignity Act is and why it was created
- To teach staff the core principles of DASA and how to support these principles throughout the school day
- To review how our school district will support DASA and how our reporting system is implemented

What is the Dignity Act?

The Dignity for All Students Act (The Dignity Act) was established to protect all students from harassment, bullying and discrimination. It became effective on July 1, 2012 and was amended to include cyberbullying effective July 1, 2013.

What is the goal of the Dignity Act?

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.

DASA Coordinators

Mr. John Diodate - Wilson Elementary School

Mr. Scott Benton - Wilson Middle School

Mr. Paul Galgovich - Wilson High School

Mr. Jeff Roth - Wilson High School and Athletics

Mrs. Amanda Schaus - District

Definitions

According to the United States Department of Education (USDOE), **bullying** generally involves the following characteristics:

- An Imbalance of Power
- The Intent to Cause Harm
- Repetition

Definitions

Bullying is described as an unwanted, aggressive behavior that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time.

- **Bullying** can occur before and after school hours, in a school building, on a playground, on a school bus while a student is traveling to or from school, or on the Internet.
- **Cyberbullying** occurs when harassment or bullying happens through any form of electronic communication.

Students who are bullied and those who bully others may have serious and lasting problems

Definitions

Harassment is defined as the creation of a hostile environment by conduct or verbal threats, intimidation, or abuse that has or would have the following effect:

- reasonably and substantially **interfering with a student's educational performance**, opportunities or benefits; or
- would reasonably be expected to cause a student to **fear for his or her physical safety**.

Discrimination is the act of denying rights, benefits, justice, equitable treatment or access to facilities available to all others, to an individual or group of people because of the group, class or category to which that person belongs.

DASA § 11- Protected Classes

Prohibits bullying, harassment, discrimination, or cyberbullying against students in school based on the following:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Race● Color● Weight● National origin● Ethnic group● Religion | <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Religious practice● Disability● Sexual orientation● Gender (including gender identity and expression)● Sex |
|---|--|

A Note from the Criminal end...

Behaviors may violate civil or criminal laws...

- Physical bullying - assault
- Gender bullying - sexual harassment or assault, dating abuse, domestic violence
- Intimidating for gain - extortion
- Rumors/Lies - defamation of character
- Bullying based on race, national origin, sex, or disability (civil rights violation)
- Bullying disabled people - disability harassment
- Cyber bullying - harassment by communication; stalking
- Sexting - child pornography

Cyberbullying

- June 22, 2012: NYS Assembly passed legislation requiring cyberbullying reporting
- Expands on the Dignity For All Students Act, signed by Gov. Cuomo on July 9, 2012 and goes into effect 7/2013
- Requires ALL school staff to report any incident of bullying AND cyberbullying to the school principal or superintendent

What is Cyberbullying?

Cyberbullying is bullying that occurs through the use of electronic technology, such as cell phones, computers, and tablets. It can also involve the use of communication tools, such social media sites, text messages, chat and websites.

Distance Learning and DASA

- Examples of Cyberbullying include, but are not limited to:
 - Sending hurtful, rude, or mean text messages or e-mails to others.
 - Spreading rumors or lies about others by text message or e-mail or posting on social networking sites.
 - Creating or sharing pictures, websites, videos or social media profiles, including fake profiles that embarrass, humiliate, or make fun of others.
- Using inappropriate communication that is hurtful, rude, and/or lies over educational video comments, chats or messaging during synchronous or asynchronous learning, group assignments, etc.

Wilson School District DASA requirements:

- 1) Provide students, staff, and persons in parental relation with information about DASA, including the identity of the DASA Coordinator.
- 2) Provide information in languages other than English when necessary
- 3) Policies, procedures, and guidelines that require a school environment free from harassment, bullying, discrimination, and cyberbullying.

What sites and events are covered by the Dignity Act?

- The Dignity Act applies to all public schools, BOCES, and charter schools.
- The Dignity Act applies to incidents on school property (in a school building, athletic playing field, playground, parking lot, school bus)
- The Dignity Act applies to public school sponsored functions (school-sponsored extra curricular events or activities)

Wilson School District DASA Policy

- Identify administrative designee to receive reports;
- Enable students and persons in parental relation to make a report;
- Require school personnel to notify an administrator of report within **one day** and **file a written report no later than two days after original report**;
- Require a thorough investigation be completed promptly after report;
- Require the school to take prompt action to end harassment, bullying, and/or discrimination;
- Prohibit retaliation against anyone making a report or assisting with the investigation;

Wilson School District DASA Policy

- Develop a school strategy to prevent harassment, bullying, and discrimination;
- Require school leader to regularly report data trends to superintendent;
- Require school leaders to notify local law enforcement when behavior is believed to constitute criminal conduct;
- Require that all school personnel receive a copy of the district policies (school calendar), including the reporting process, at least annually; and
- Ensure that the district's policies and procedures, including an incident report form, are posted on the district's website.
 - <http://www.wilsoncsd.org/Page/493>

Resources

For Additional Information, please visit the following: Dignity Act:

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/dignityact/>

Resource for Promising Practices Guide:

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/dignityact/documents/FINALDignityForAllStudentsActGuidanceMay2016.pdf>

Safe and Supportive Learning:

<https://safesupportivelearning.ed.gov/>

Stop Bullying: www.stopbullying.gov

Wilson DASA site: <http://www.wilsoncsd.org/domain/184>

Certificate of Completion

Please complete the attached form to certify that you have completed the DASA training for the 2020-2021 school year.

[DASA Certificate of Completion Form](#)