

The Dignity Act Intent

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.



New York State Education Department
Office of Curriculum, Instruction and Field Services
Student Support Services
Room 318-M Education Building
Albany, New York 12234

518-486-6090
dasa@mail.nysed.gov



The New York State Dignity For All Students Act (The Dignity Act)

Effective July 1, 2012

www.p12.nysed.gov/dignityact

The Dignity For All Students Act Overview

The Dignity Act takes effect on July 1, 2012.

- The New York State Dignity For All Students Act (The Dignity Act) was signed into law on September 13, 2010. This legislation amended State Education Law by creating a new Article 2 – *Dignity For All Students*.
- The Dignity Act amended 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, of different **rac**es, weights, **n**ational origins, ethnic groups, **r**eligious, **r**eligious practices, mental or physical abilities, sexual orientations, **g**ender identity or expression, and **s**exes.
- The Dignity Act also amended Section 2801 of the Education Law, instructing Boards of Education to include language in the codes of conduct to comply with The Dignity Act.

Highlights

Q: Who is protected by The Dignity Act?

A: All public elementary and secondary school students are protected by The Dignity Act.

Q: What does The Dignity Act prohibit?

A: The Dignity Act prohibits the harassment and discrimination of students by students and by school personnel.

Q: How does The Dignity Act relate to bullying and hazing?

A: Bullying and hazing are forms of harassment and discrimination.

Q: What physical spaces are covered by The Dignity Act?

A: The Dignity Act applies to behavior on school property (including athletic fields, playgrounds, and parking lots), in school buildings, on a school bus/vehicle, as well as at school-sponsored events or activities.

Q: How does The Dignity Act relate to the school's Code of Conduct?

A: The Code of Conduct must be amended to reflect the prohibition of discrimination and harassment of students by students or staff — in age appropriate plain language.

To learn more about
The Dignity For
All Students Act
visit

www.p12.nysed.gov/dignityact



New York State Education Department
Office of Curriculum, Instruction and Field Services
Student Support Services
Room 318-M Education Building
Albany, New York 12234

518-486-6090
dasa@mail.nysed.gov