New York State Education Department
Dignity for All Students Act
(Dignity Act)

Data Reporting Overview Webinar
Dignity Act Reporting Basics

• **Required by New York State Education Law Article 2 – Section 15**

• **Implemented by Commissioner’s Regulation 8 NYCRR 100.2(kk)**
Dignity Act Reporting Basics

- Annual public school report to the State Education Department summarizing all material incidents of discrimination and/or harassment which occur on school property (including a school bus) and/or at a school function.
The report for the 2012-13 (July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013) school year will be due following the conclusion of the 2012-13 school year.

Reports will be accepted from: August 19, 2013 to September 27, 2013.
Dignity Act Reporting Basics

• The method through which schools compile and maintain Dignity Act-related data throughout the school year is a local decision.

• The annual Dignity Act reporting will be performed using a standardized on-line format provided by NYSED.
Defining A Material Incident of Discrimination and/or Harassment

- A single incident or a series of related incidents where a student is subjected to discrimination and/or harassment by a student and/or employee on school property or at a school function that creates a hostile environment by conduct, with or without physical contact and/or by verbal threats, intimidation or abuse, of such severe or pervasive nature that:

  a) has or would have the effect of unreasonably and substantially interfering with a student’s educational performance, opportunities or benefits, or mental, emotional and/or physical well-being; or

  b) reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause a student to fear for his or her physical safety.
Material incidents of discrimination and/or harassment include, but not are not limited to, threats, intimidation or abuse based on a person’s actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender, or sex.
Annual report of material incidents of discrimination and/or harassment that:

• Are the result of the investigation of a written or oral complaint made to the school principal or other school administrator responsible for school discipline, or to any other school employee; or

• Are otherwise directly observed by such principal or administrator, or by any other school employee regardless of whether a complaint is made.
## Report of Incidents Concerning School Safety and the Educational Climate

**July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013**

*This paper form must be used only for the local gathering of data. Data represented in this form are required to be submitted to SED via the online BEDS IMF application. Your district’s BEDS coordinator or superintendent will have details and protocol for entering data.*

### Part 2: Dignity for All Students Act (Dignity Act)

Report all material incidents of discrimination and/or harassment, even if they occurred in combination with other incidents reported under the VADiR categories above. If a material incident involves more than one category of discrimination and/or harassment, include all counts in all categories that apply. Category definitions are summarized in this document and detailed in the *Glossary of Terms Used in Reporting Incidents Concerning School Safety and the Educational Climate*. For additional information on the Dignity for All Students Act (including definitions, instructions, and Q&A documents), please consult the resource documents located at [http://www.nj2.njpsd.gov/dignityact/](http://www.nj2.njpsd.gov/dignityact/).

#### 1. Material Incidents of Discrimination and/or Harassment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Incident Types</th>
<th>Nature of Material Incidents of Discrimination and/or Harassment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Race (a)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Total number of incidents ²</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2a Incidents occurring on school property</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2b Incidents occurring at school-sponsored function off school grounds</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2c Incidents involving intimidation or abuse, but no verbal threat or physical contact</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2d Incidents involving verbal threat but no physical contact</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2e Incidents involving physical contact but no verbal threat</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Incidents involving both verbal threat and physical contact</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3a Incidents involving only student offenders</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3b Incidents involving only employee offenders</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3c Incidents involving both student and employee offenders</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ For each incident type: \(m = (a) - (b) - (c) - (d) - (e) - (f) - (g) - (h) - (i) - (j)\)
² For each category of discrimination harassment: \(1 = 3a + 3b\) and \(1 = 3a + 3b + 3c + 3d\) and \(1 = 4a + 4b + 4c\)
Annual Reporting Categories

- The type(s) of bias involved (actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender, sex or other).

- Where multiple types of bias are involved, they shall all be reported.
Annual Reporting Categories

1. Total number of incidents

2.a. Incidents occurring on school property

2.b. Incidents occurring at school-sponsored functions off school grounds
Annual Reporting Categories

3.a. Incidents involving **intimidation or abuse**, but no verbal threat or physical contact

3.b. Incidents involving **verbal** threat, but no physical contact

3.c. Incidents involving **physical contact**, but no verbal threat

3.d. Incidents involving **both verbal threat and physical contact**
## Annual Reporting Categories

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.a.</td>
<td>Incidents involving <strong>only</strong> student offenders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.b.</td>
<td>Incidents involving <strong>only</strong> employee offenders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.c.</td>
<td>Incidents involving <strong>both</strong> student and employee offenders</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Protection of people who report discrimination and/or harassment

| Pursuant to Education Law section 16, any person having reasonable cause to suspect that a student has been subjected to discrimination and/or harassment by an employee or student, on school grounds or at a school function, who acting reasonably and in good faith, either reports such information to school officials, to the commissioner, or to law enforcement authorities or otherwise initiates, testifies, participates or assists in any formal or informal proceedings under this subdivision, shall have immunity from any civil liability that may arise from the making of such report or from initiating, testifying, participating or assisting in such formal or informal proceedings. |
Protection of people who report discrimination and/or harassment

- No school district, BOCES or charter school, or an employee thereof, shall take, request or cause a retaliatory action against any such person who, acting reasonably and in good faith, either makes such a report or initiates, testifies, participates or assists in such formal or informal proceedings.
Remember - the goal of the Dignity for All Students Act is to provide **ALL** New York State public school students with a **safe and supportive environment** free from discrimination, intimidation, taunting, harassment, and bullying on school property and/or at a school function.

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Where can I get more information on the Dignity Act?

- New York State Education Department
  Office of Student Support Services
- 518-486-6090
- DASA@MAIL.NYSED.GOV

- Dignity Act Web Site
  - www.p12.nysed.gov/dignityact