

Dignity For All Students Act (DASA)

“New York State’s Dignity for All Students Act (The Dignity Act) seeks to provide the State’s public elementary and secondary school students with a safe and supportive environment free from discrimination, intimidation, taunting, harassment, and bullying on school property, a school bus and/or at a school function.

The original legislation amended State Education Law by creating a new Article 2 – Dignity for All Students. The Dignity Act also 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, different races, weights, national origins, ethnic groups, religions, religious practices, mental or physical abilities, sexual orientations, gender identity, and sexes. The Dignity Act further amended Section 2801 of the Education Law by requiring Boards of Education to include language addressing The Dignity Act in their codes of conduct.

Dobbs Ferry School District Code of Conduct

VI Prohibited Student Conduct:

- ⇒ E: Engage in any conduct that endangers the safety, morals, physical or mental health welfare of others.
- ⇒ F: Engaging in Bullying Conduct.
- ⇒ G: Engaging in Bullying Conduct that harasses others.
- ⇒ H: Engage in conduct commonly referred to as “hazing”.



Board of Education

boe@dfsd.org

Mr. Kenneth Slentz, Superintendent

slentzk@dfsd.org

Retaliation against someone who reports or investigates an incident of harassment, bullying, intimidation or discriminatory behavior or who helps in an investigation is prohibited. Students who believe they have been retaliated against should immediately contact the superintendent.

DASA Designated Liaisons

Ms. Jean Gismervik, District Coordinator

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Ms. Leah Grabelsky

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Ms. Anne Peculina

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Quick Links - DASA Information

DOBBS FERRY SCHOOL DISTRICT

NO PLACE FOR HATE



Our Mission

The Dobbs Ferry School District strives to develop independent, curious, and open-minded learners who think critically, work collaboratively, act ethically and are knowledgeable about the world around them.

Letter from the Superintendent

The Dobbs Ferry School District is committed to providing an educational environment that promotes respect, dignity, and equality. The District recognizes that discrimination, such as harassment, hazing and bullying, are detrimental to students learning and achievement. These behaviors interfere with the mission of the district to educate its students, and disrupt the operation of the schools. Such behavior affects not only the students who are its targets but also those individuals who participate in and/or witness such acts.

To this end, the District condemns and strictly prohibits all forms of discrimination, such as harassment, intimidation, hazing and/or bullying and any form of discrimination based on actual or perceived race, color, citizenship/immigration status, religion, creed, national origin, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, weight, or linguistic on school grounds, including cyberbullying, which creates or would foreseeably create a risk of substantial disruption within the school environment.

For more information please go to the following website: <https://www.dfsd.org> - District Info

What are some examples of behaviors that are banned?

Discrimination, harassment, intimidation and/or bullying takes many forms and can be physical, social, verbal or written. **Physical Harassment** consists of physical injury or threat of injury. **Social Harassment** pertains to the use of peer exclusion, or rejection to humiliate or isolate a person. **Verbal Harassment** refers to derogatory teasing, taunting, or insulting someone. **Written discrimination, harassment, intimidation and/or bullying** includes electronic communications (cyber-bullying) using information technology including, but not limited to: internet, cell phone, email, personal digital assistant, social media, blogs, chat rooms, and gaming systems.

Examples include the following:

- Verbal or physical conduct that threatens another with harm;
- Physical violence; stalking;
- Seeking to coerce or compel a student or staff member to do something; hazing;
- Taunting; exclusion from a peer group designed to humiliate or isolate;
- Using derogatory language or making derogatory jokes (micro-aggressions) or name calling to humiliate or harass;
- Making derogatory statements or engaging in hostile acts based on a student's race, color, ethnicity, religion, creed, national origin, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, citizenship/immigration status, weight, or disability;
- Written or graphic material, including graffiti containing comments or stereotypes that are either posted, circulated or are written or printed on clothing or posted on the internet (cyber-bullying) that are derogatory of others; engaging in this behavior based on a person's race, color, ethnicity, religion, creed, national origin, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, citizenship/immigration status, weight, disability, or linguistic..

Students who believe they have been the victim of bullying or intimidating behavior, discrimination or harassment by another student or by a staff member, and all students with knowledge of such behavior, should report the incident immediately.

Here are the steps to take if you believe another student or staff member has harassed, bullied, or discriminated against you or if you have witnesses such behavior:

1. A student may make a report of bullying, intimidation, discrimination or harassment **by another student** in writing or verbally to the school staff members (designee) listed on the back of this brochure. You may print the student report form here: <https://www.dfsd.org/cms/lib/NY02214206/Centricity/Domain/244/DignityAct.pdf>
2. A student may make a report of **staff-to-student** harassment, intimidation and or bullying to the principal/designee or to the superintendent.
3. A student may make a report of **staff-to-student** discrimination based on race, color, ethnicity, religion, creed, national origin, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, citizenship/immigration status, weight, disability, or linguistic to the principal/designee or to the superintendent.
4. Reports should be made as soon as possible after the incident so they can be effectively investigated and addressed.
5. Staff must take the appropriate action to intervene to stop such behavior.