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.

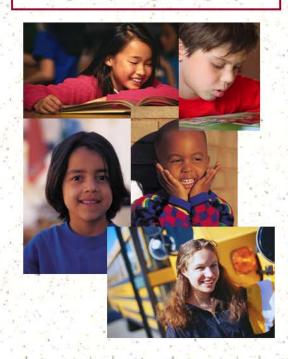
- The New York State Dignity For All Students Act (The Dignity Act) was signed into law on September 13, 2010.
 This legislation amended State Education Law by creating a new Article 2 – Dignity For All Students.
- The Dignity Act amended Section 801-a of New York State Education Law regarding instruction 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 races, weights, national origins, ethnic groups, religions, religious practices, mental or physical abilities, sexual orientations, gender identity or expression, and sexes.
- 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: <u>All</u> 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