

The Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) is a measure aimed at ensuring public school communities provide students with a learning environment free of bullying, discrimination and harassment. The Act was signed into law on September 13, 2010 and has taken effect in all NYS public schools as of July 1, 2012.

DASA directs school districts to:

Protect all students from bullying, discrimination and harassment from staff and other students.

Develop policies and procedures that create discrimination and harassment free schools.

Implement components of character education into classroom curriculums to help create a climate of mutual respect and dignity for all students. Lessons will include, tolerance, respect for others, civility, personal responsibility, sensitivity towards others and equal treatment of others regardless of actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion or religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender, and sex, including actual or perceived gender identity, expression.

Provide training to personnel to respond to and report discrimination and harassment.

Appoint a Dignity Act Coordinator to report, respond to and investigate all incidents of harassment and discrimination.

Provide disciplinary services that help students learn lessons, solve problems, encourage empathy and understanding of others, and develop interpersonal skills that will help avoid future incidents.

Develop nondiscriminatory counseling methods that support and assist students.

Protect students who report cases of discrimination and harassment.

In order to foster an environment which promotes and supports students' ability to learn and to meet high academic standards in the Hoosic Valley Central School District, the Board of Education is dedicated to ensuring the District promptly addresses any conduct which is inconsistent with the District's educational mission or which detracts from a healthy and positive school climate, including discriminatory or harassing behaviors as defined by the Dignity for All Students Act or related federal civil rights statutes set forth. The Board of Education is committed to providing all its students with an environment free from discrimination and harassment and shall take steps to prevent harassment and discriminatory behaviors through educational measures designed to promote tolerance, respect for others and to promote awareness and sensitivity to discrimination or harassment, to encourage civility and a climate of mutual respect, equality and dignity for all students on school grounds and at all school sponsored activities, programs or events. Harassment against any student by any student or employee that creates a hostile environment by conduct will not be tolerated.

For more information on how the Hoosic Valley Central School District is meeting the requirements of the Dignity for All Students Act see the Student Handbook or the 2013-2014 Code of Conduct.

If you feel a child is being harassed in school contact the Dignity Act Coordinator, Janet Folkman at

753-4458 x 2523 or Becky Kellerhouse (7-12) at x2522 or Beth McQueeney (K-6) at x3504.