

# **Dignity for All Students Act**

**Q: What physical spaces are covered by the Dignity Act?**

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

**Q: What does the Dignity Act prohibit?**

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

**Q: Who is protected by the Dignity Act?**

The goal of the Dignity for All Students Act (DASA), which took effect July 1, 2012, is to provide students with a school environment free of discrimination and harassment by peers and by school personnel. It applies to behaviors on school property, in school buildings, on a school bus, as well as at school-sponsored events or activities.  Incidents of harassment and discrimination may include, but 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 (including gender identity or expression), and sex.

The new legislation requires school districts to identify at least one employee at every school to serve as the DASA coordinator. These individuals must be trained to “handle human relations” in the protected areas defined by the law. Jason Hans, Director of Pupil Personnel, will serve as the DASA coordinator for the school district. In addition, training is to be provided to staff and students in order to raise awareness, provide strategies for prevention, and offer methods of responding to acts of discrimination and/or harassment. Finally, schools will be required to collect and report data related to “material incidents” of discrimination and harassment.

# ***In response to the Dignity for All Students Act, Hancock Central School will be implementing the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program!***



The Hancock Central School District cares about the safety and well-being of our students. We want to make sure each school in the district provides a comfortable place for students to learn. In order to make this happen, we are going to use a program called The Olweus Bullying Prevention Program.

The Olweus Bullying Prevention Program is the most researched and best-known bullying prevention program available. With over thirty-five years of research and successful implementation all over the world, OBPP is an integral component of school-wide programming that has been proven to prevent or reduce bullying throughout the school setting. OBPP is used at the school, classroom, and individual levels and includes methods to reach out to parents and the community for involvement and support.

The goals of OBPP are to reduce bullying problems and prevent new bullying problems from happening. The program also works to improve relationships among students. All students participate in the program, while students identified as bullying others or students identified as being bullied, receive additional individualized interventions. Also, students identified as witnesses to bullying behavior discover empowering strategies to act in a positive, safe way.

FAQ:



Please check out the Hancock Central School Website for more detailed information about bullying.

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