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
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The
New York State
Dignity for All
Students Act
(Dignity Act)

Effective July 1, 2012

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Dignity For All Students Act Overview

The Dignity Act takes effect on July 1, 2012.

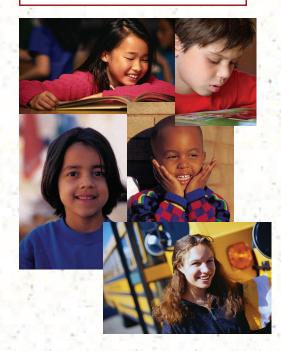
- The New York State Dignity For All Students Act (Dignity Act) was signed into law on September 13, 2010. This legislation amended State Education Law by creating a new Article 2 Dignity for All Students.
- The Dignity Act states that NO
 student shall be subjected to harassment or discrimination by employees or
 students on school property or at a
 school function based on their actual
 or perceived race, color, weight,
 national origin, ethnic group, religion,
 religious practice, disability, sexual
 orientation, gender, or sex.
- 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.
- 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



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