

Dignity for All Students Act

Student Awareness and Prevention

What is DASA?

- NYS enacted a law in 2012 called the Dignity for All Students Act.
- The Dignity Act Legislative Intent: Provide all students In New York public schools an environment free of discrimination and harassment.
- No student shall be subjected to harassment, discrimination, or bullying by employees or students.

Legislative Intent

- “...the Legislature intends Dignity to be primarily a preventive, rather than punitive, measure; it should therefore be implemented accordingly, with the emphasis on proactive techniques such as training and early intervention to prevent discrimination and harassment.”
- Daniel O’Donnell, Member of Assembly September 7, 2010
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No student shall be subjected to discrimination based on their actual or perceived:

- race
- color
- weight
- national origin
- ethnic group
- religion
- religious practice
- disability
- sexual orientation
- gender identity, or
- sex

What is bullying?

Bullying, as defined by New York State, is a form of unwanted, aggressive behavior that involves a real or perceived power imbalance and that is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time.

[Glossary of Terms Used in the Annual Reporting of Incidents Concerning School Safety and Educational Climate \(SSEC\)](#)

[Tuxedo Union Free School District BOE Policy #4313](#)

What are the major features of bullying?

Deliberate – a bully's intention to hurt someone

Repeated – a bully often targets the same victim again and again

Power imbalance – a bully chooses victims he or she perceives as vulnerable

What bullying is not?

...it is not a single act/incident

...it is not an accident

...being bossy

...an argument or disagreement

These may be disagreeable behaviors, but are not necessarily “bullying.”

What should you do if you or your child is being bullied?

Students who have been subjected to harassment, bullying, and/or discrimination, or others who observe such harassment are encouraged to make verbal or written reports to:

- school administration
- the DASA coordinator
- other school personnel

DASA Complaint Form

A student or parent / guardian of a student who is being bullied or harassed should file a written complaint form containing as much information as possible detailing the circumstances of the bullying or harassment incident.

Tuxedo UFSD DASA Coordinators

Jason Schrammel
jschrammel@tuxedoufsd.org
845.351.4786 extension 3111

Traci Ferreira
tferreira@tuxedoufsd.org
845.351.4786 extension 2102

Christine Oliva
coliva@tuxedoufsd.org
845.351.4786 extension 2126

Natalie VanCuren
nvancuren@tuxedoufsd.org
845.351.4786 extension 3110