

# **Dignity for All Students Act (DASA)**

## **The Dignity for All Students Act**

New York State's Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) took effect on July 1, 2012. It seeks to provide the State's public elementary and secondary school students with a safe and supportive environment free from discrimination, intimidation, taunting, harassment, and bullying on school property, a school bus and/or at a school function. It prohibits harassment and discrimination towards students based on categories including (but not limited to): race, skin color, national origin, ethnic group, religion, disability, gender, sexual orientation, weight, economic status, and being the child of an incarcerated parent. DASA covers harassment/discrimination towards students by other students and by school employees.

The Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) requires that school districts adhere to the following guidelines.

The East Irondequoit Central School District will:

- prohibit discrimination and harassment against any student by employees or students on school property or at a school function, that creates a hostile environment by conduct, with or without physical contact and/or by verbal threats, intimidation or abuse, of such a severe nature that:
- has or would have the effect of unreasonably and substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities or benefits, or mental, emotional and/or physical well-being; or
- reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause a student to fear for his or her physical safety. Such conduct shall include, but is not limited to, threats, intimidation or abuse based on a person's actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practices, disability, sexual orientation, gender, or sex;
- respond to such acts of discrimination or harassment against students by employees or students on school property or at a school function;
- provide guidelines and programs for in-service education programs for all district staff members to ensure effective implementation of school policy on school conduct and discipline, including but not limited to, guidelines on promoting a safe and supportive school climate while discouraging, among other things, discrimination or harassment against students by students and/or school employees, and including safe and supportive school climate concepts in the curriculum and classroom;
- implement a bill of rights and responsibilities of students which focuses upon positive student behavior and a safe and supportive school climate, which shall be written in plain-language, publicized and explained in an age-appropriate manner to all students on an annual basis

An additional requirement of DASA is that schools create an environment that encourages respect and discourages bullying. Programs at Durand-Eastman Intermediate School which meet this requirement include our PYP Learner Profile Traits, expectations created by the discipline committee, counselor classroom presentations on sexual harassment and bullying, and PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Supports). The DASA coordinator for Durand Eastman is school counselor Jeff Jasak.

## **DE Procedures for Addressing Bullying**

- DASA requires that school staff report when they are aware of incidents of bullying.
- Report can be made to administrators, counselors, or Jeff Jasak (Dignity Act Coordinator).
- One of these individuals and/or security staff will investigate the report.
- If it doesn't meet DASA criteria, the investigation will be documented.
- If it meets DASA criteria:
  - A DASA incident form is filled out,
  - Parents of all students involved are informed,
  - Appropriate consequences are applied,
  - Follow-up steps will be taken to so that the bullying doesn't continue,
  - Incident is reported to the state.

### **Bill of Rights**

- You have the right to a safe environment.
  - You have the responsibility to follow safety rules.
- You have the right to voice your opinion.
  - You have the responsibility to respect the opinions of others.
- You have the right to use school books, materials, and equipment.
  - You have the responsibility to take care of all school materials.
- You have the right to fair treatment.
  - You have the responsibility to treat others fairly.
- You have the right to a good education.
  - You have the responsibility to do your best.

### **STUDENT'S RIGHTS**

As citizens and participants in the East Irondequoit School community, it is recognized that all students have the right to:

1. Expect an orderly school environment.
2. Personal protection.
3. Protection of personal property.
4. Expect an atmosphere in which learning can take place.
5. Expect an atmosphere that promotes emotional security.
6. Expect Due Process.
7. Be informed of all school rules.
8. Expect fair, appropriate, consistent and timely enforcement of rules.
9. Expect communication and cooperation between home and school.
10. Expect that school personnel will act and make decisions based on each student's best interests.
11. Learn as they become developmentally capable.

## **STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES**

Along with rights, a student has certain responsibilities. With this in mind, all students will learn to accept responsibility for their actions. Therefore, students will be expected to:

1. Respect the rights of others, including the right to secure an education in an environment that is orderly and disciplined.
2. Attend school on a regular basis and be punctual at all times.
3. Recognize the authority of teachers and administrators to govern behavior and discipline students when at school, as well as during any school-sponsored activities.
4. Contribute toward establishing and maintaining an atmosphere that generates mutual respect and dignity for all.
5. Respect school property and help to keep it from damage.
6. Obey school regulations and rules made by school authorities and by the student governing body.
7. Complete class assignments and other school responsibilities by established deadlines.
8. Show evidence of appropriate progress toward meeting course and/or diploma requirements.

## **POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES WHEN SCHOOL/DISTRICT RULES ARE BROKEN**

1. Student is warned by the teacher.
2. A classroom privilege as selected by the teacher is denied to the child.
3. The student's parent is contacted by the teacher.
4. The student is sent to the Principal.
5. Finally, if there is a severe student breach of discipline as judged by the teacher, the child can immediately be sent to the Principal without first going through steps 1-4 as listed above.

\*Incidents of physical aggression MAY result in immediate suspension.

### Consequences

- verbal warning
- written warning
- written notification to parents
- probationary contract
- detention
- suspension from transportation privileges
- suspension from social or extracurricular activities
- suspension of other privileges
- in-school suspension
- suspension from school

Student discipline will be progressive, i.e. a student's first violation should merit a lighter penalty than subsequent violations

Websites for more information:

[www.p12.nysed.gov/dignityact](http://www.p12.nysed.gov/dignityact)

[www.stopbullying.gov](http://www.stopbullying.gov)