

## WHAT IS D.A.S.A.?

The Dignity For All Students Act (DASA / Dignity Act) is New York State's proactive response to battling the epidemic of bullying, harassment and discrimination within the school system.

The goal of the Dignity Act is to create a safe and supportive climate where students have the ability to focus on their education and social development without the fear of being discriminated against or physically, verbally and emotionally harassed.

The New York State Dignity For All Students Act promotes the idea that all students in elementary and secondary education have the right to a safe, welcoming, considerate and compassionate environment.



## D.A.S.A. Key Points

- The New York State Dignity For All Students Act (DASA / Dignity Act) was signed into law on September 13, 2010 by Governor David Paterson
- The Act was implemented in school districts statewide on July 1, 2012
- The Act was updated in 2013 to include “cyberbullying” or virtual harassment through social media, e-mail, texts or other means of technology.
- 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, nation or origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practices, disability, sexual orientation or gender
- The Dignity Act amended 2801 of the New York State Education Law mandating that all Boards of Education include language in their respective district Codes of Conduct that complied with the Dignity Act
- All schools must partake in a professional development training seminar on issues related to harassment and discrimination
- Mandates that one employee of **EACH school** building be trained as ‘DASA Coordinators’ which mandates that the individual report all incidents of bullying to the State Education Department within one report at the end of each school term



## Dignity Act Frequently Asked Questions:

### Who is protected under the NYS Dignity Act?

All public elementary and secondary school students are protected under the law. Currently, private, religious or denominational schools are not subject to compliance under the Dignity Act.

### What is the goal of the Dignity Act?

The goal of the Dignity Act is to create a safe and supportive climate where students have the ability to focus on their education and social development without the fear of being discriminated against or physically, verbally and emotionally harassed.

### Does the Dignity Act specifically mention bullying within the law?

Yes. The Dignity Act specifically mentions bullying and hazing within the law. The Dignity Act specifically defines bullying as “the intent to cause another individual pain and/or misery.”

### Are there specific locations where the Dignity Act is enforced?

Yes. The Dignity Act is fully enforced under the law on all school property which includes fields, playgrounds, school buildings, school buses or authorized school vehicles as well as all school affiliated or sponsored events or activities (proms, dances, competitions).

### What is a Dignity Act Coordinator?

The Dignity Act mandates that one individual within each school building within each district must be trained in “non-discriminatory instructional and counseling methods and handling human relations.” This individual is responsible for reporting all of the their respective schools Dignity Act violations to the state Education Department at the end of each school term within a written report called “Reports of Incidents Concerning School Safety and the Educational Climate.”

### How do I find out who my schools Dignity Act Coordinator is?

Under the Dignity Act, all districts are mandated to have an individual coordinator in each school building. Please contact your respective school's main office or your districts central administration building to find out the names of the Dignity Act coordinators. This information is a matter of public record and must be disclosed upon request.

### Is there an investigation when a Dignity Act violation is reported?

Yes. The initial complaint is investigated with an oral report submitted to the building principal and the superintendent within one day of the incident being reported. A written report is then required to be submitted two days of the incident being reported. The investigation findings are then reported to both parties in question. The Dignity Act does not specifically require that parents are notified of the investigations findings.





### Important Resources:

**The New York State Education Department**  
89 Washington Avenue  
Albany, New York 12234

P-12 Education (518)474-3862  
[www.p12.nysed.gov/dignityact](http://www.p12.nysed.gov/dignityact)

**The Long Island Coalition Against Bullying**  
PO Box 3266  
Farmingdale, NY 11735

(516)777-7709  
[www.LICAB.org](http://www.LICAB.org)

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*The Long Island Coalition Against Bullying is a federally recognized 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization dedicated to emphasizing the importance of bully free communities on Long Island through education, increased awareness and therapeutic outlets.*



## Understanding the New York State Dignity For All Students Act

