

Dignity for All Students Act (Cyberbullying)

The Board is committed to providing a school environment that is free from harassment, bullying and discrimination. Harassment, discrimination, intimidation or bullying and acts of cyberbullying, as defined by New York Education Law Article Two and the Regulations of the Commissioner § 100.2 by students, staff or visitors toward students are strictly prohibited. Therefore, in accordance with such laws and regulations, conduct of this nature is subject to discipline in accordance with the BOCES Code of Conduct and the Internet Safety and Acceptable Use Policies.

Reports of harassment, bullying and discrimination shall be made to the Administrator, District Superintendent or the Administrator's or District Superintendent's designee. Students and parents/guardians may make an oral or written report of harassment, bullying or discrimination to BOCES' teachers or administrators.

BOCES' employees who witness harassment, bullying or discrimination, or who receive an oral or written report of harassment, bullying or discrimination, shall promptly orally notify the Administrator, District Superintendent or the Administrator's or District Superintendent's designee not later than one school day after such employee witnesses or receives a report of harassment, bullying or discrimination. After oral notification, the BOCES employee shall file a written report with the Administrator, District Superintendent or the Administrator's or District Superintendent's designee not later than two school days after making the oral report.

The Administrator, District Superintendent or the Administrator's or District Superintendent's designee shall lead or supervise a thorough investigation of all reports of harassment, bullying or discrimination, and ensure that said investigation is completed promptly after receipt of any written reports made.

In the event an investigation verifies harassment, bullying or discrimination, BOCES shall take prompt actions reasonably calculated to end the harassment, bullying or discrimination, eliminate any hostile environment, create a more positive school culture and climate, prevent recurrence of the behavior, and ensure the safety of the student or students against whom such harassment, bullying or discrimination was directed. Retaliation against any individual who, in good faith, reports or assists in the investigation of harassment, bullying or discrimination, is strictly prohibited.

Individuals whose behavior is found to be in violation of this policy will be subject to discipline or removal from the premises in accordance with school policy, including the Code of Conduct. If appropriate, individuals may also be referred to law enforcement officials.

The Administrator shall make a regular report on data and trends related to harassment, bullying and discrimination to the District Superintendent.

The District Superintendent shall establish procedures and guidelines that will include, but not be limited to, staff training and professional development, the method of reporting an

incident believed to be in violation of this policy, the procedure for investigation and the prohibition of retaliation for reporting an incident. BOCES shall also provide required instruction supporting development of a school environment free of harassment, bullying and discrimination having an emphasis on discouraging acts of harassment, bullying (including cyberbullying) and discrimination and including instruction in the safe, responsible use of the Internet and electronic communications.

The Board will review this policy from time to time, but no less than annually, and will make any necessary modifications as required by the applicable laws and regulations.

This policy and any amendments or addendums shall be published in the student handbook and on the BOCES website. At least once each school year, BOCES shall provide all BOCES' employees, students and parents or persons in parental relation with a written or electronic copy of this policy and any other policy created by BOCES in compliance with the Dignity for All Students Act.

If the District Superintendent or Administrator designates a staff member to receive oral or written reports of harassment, bullying, or discrimination, then the District Superintendent or Administrator shall publish the name and title of the designee to the school community as an addendum to this policy.

Adopted March 11, 2015