

Dignity Act Statement

Dignity for All Students

The Wantagh Board of Education recognizes that learning environments that are safe and supportive can increase student attendance and improve academic achievement. A student's ability to learn and achieve high academic standards, and a school's ability to educate students, is compromised by incidents of discrimination or harassment, including, but not limited to, bullying, taunting, and intimidation. Therefore, in accordance with the Dignity for All Students Act, Education Law Article 2, the District will strive to create an environment free of discrimination and harassment, and will foster civility in the schools to prevent and prohibit conduct which is inconsistent with the District's educational mission.

The District condemns and prohibits all forms of discrimination and harassment of students based on actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender, or sex by school employees or students on school property and at school-sponsored activities and events that take place at locations off school property. In addition, any act of discrimination or harassment, outside of school sponsored events, which can reasonably be expected to materially and substantially disrupt the education process may be subject to discipline.

At least one (1) employee at every school has been designated as the Dignity Act Coordinator(s). The Dignity Act Coordinator(s) are thoroughly trained to handle human relations in the areas of race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender (identity or expression) and sex.

The District will investigate all complaints of harassment and discrimination, either formal or informal, and take prompt corrective measures, as necessary. Complaints will be investigated in accordance with applicable policies and regulations. If, after an appropriate investigation, the District finds that this policy has been violated, corrective action will be taken in accordance with District policies and regulations, the Code of Conduct, and all appropriate federal or state laws.

Training will be provided each school year for all District employees in conjunction with existing professional development training to raise awareness and sensitivity of harassment and discrimination directed at students that are committed by students or school employees on school property or at a school function.