



Denville Township Schools

Office of Special Services
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Memorandum

To: All Denville Parents/Guardians, Staff, and Community Members

RE: District Anti-Bullying Information

The Denville Township School District looks forward to working with all staff, students, families and community members to create an emotionally and physically safe learning environment for all of our students. This is, without question, one of our greatest responsibilities. The New Jersey Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act highlights the importance of preventing and responding to incidents of Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) in the schools. With the growing awareness of HIB and its impact on students, particularly through the use of electronic technology and social media outlets, we wanted to provide guidance to promote a shared understanding of the laws, procedures, and supports in place.

What does the Law Say?

The Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act requires districts to investigate reports of HIB. When someone reports an incident of HIB, the district will follow specific requirements. A formal investigation will be conducted to determine if the reported act falls under HIB as defined by law. During the investigation process, the School Administration may implement disciplinary consequences and/or remedial measures according to the School Code of Conduct and to ensure the safety and well-being of students. After completing the investigation, further consequences and/or remedial measures may be put into place based on the findings. The Denville Board of Education's HIB Policy and Regulations are in place to ensure the district follows the New Jersey law.

The Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights law requires that any reported incident of HIB that occurs on school property, at a school-sponsored event, or on a school bus must be investigated. The law also indicates that incidents of HIB that occur outside of school, but impact the students in school, must also be investigated. Reported incidents of HIB that occur off school grounds can only be investigated by the school district if the alleged incident substantially disrupts or interferes with the orderly operation of the school or the rights of other students.

Denville's HIB Reporting Process:

School Principals

Mr. Seth Korman, Valleyview School	973-983-6535 x 2400	skorman@denville.org
Mrs. Skye Sardanopoli, Lakeview School	973-983-6540 x 4400	ssardanopoli@denville.org
Mrs. Christina Theodoropoulos, Riverview School	973-983-6545 x 7400	ctheodoropoulos@denville.org

Parents, Students, and Staff must report incidents of HIB to their School Principal. The Principal will consider all reported incidents and respond according to board policy. Incidents that meet the definition of HIB will be immediately referred by the Principal to the School Anti-Bullying Specialist for an investigation.



District Anti-Bullying Coordinator

Mrs. Grace Johnson: 973-983-6549 x 8400 gjohnson@denville.org

The Anti-Bullying Coordinator works with the Anti-Bullying Specialists and Administration to support the effective implementation of the HIB policy and regulation. Parents having additional questions or concerns regarding the HIB policy and/or incidents involving the welfare of students should contact the Anti-Bullying Coordinator for assistance.



Superintendent

Dr. Steven Forte: 973-983-6530 x 3091 sforte@denville.org

The Superintendent receives and reports all formal HIB investigation results to the Board of Education. The Superintendent also supports the Administration with the district's implementation of the HIB policy and regulation. Parents having additional questions or concerns regarding the HIB policy and/or incidents involving the welfare of students should contact the Superintendent.

HIB Reporting Forms:

The Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act was amended in January 2022. All alleged incidents of HIB must now be reported to the School Principal using the [HIB 338 Form](#). Additional information regarding the recent amendments can be found at this [link](#).

School Prevention Efforts:

The Denville Township School District is committed to providing a school climate and culture conducive to social-emotional and academic success for our students. A variety of programs are in place for all students, such as, district-wide character education curriculum and school-wide anti-bullying assemblies. There are many opportunities for students to participate in programs to develop appropriate social and citizenship skills. Riverview and Lakeview Elementary School Counselors provide regular character education lessons to all students. The elementary school homeroom teachers also provide daily morning meetings geared toward the social-emotional needs of the students in each class. Valleyview Middle School provides an Advisory character education curriculum which is implemented by the entire faculty working with students in assigned groups. Students may also participate in various leadership and mentoring activities to further develop empathy skills and social responsibility. School Counselors, School Psychologists, School Clinicians, and a School Social Worker provide additional intervention services when needed.