



HASBROUCK HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL SERVICES

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Jillian Torrento, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Dr. Matthew Helfant
Director of Special Services

August 21, 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

In accordance with state law, this letter serves to verify our school district's compliance with the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights (P.L.2010, c. 122). Hasbrouck Heights Public Schools is committed to maintaining healthy, supportive, and welcoming schools. Because families play an essential role in assisting us with implementing the law, it's important for us to provide you with a full understanding of the definition of harassment, intimidation, and bullying; the consequences for this behavior, and of your rights as parents. A complete copy of the Board's policy on harassment, intimidation and bullying can be found on the main page of the district website. Copies of the policy are also available in the Board of Education office.

Below is an excerpt from Board Policy #5512, outlining what constitutes harassment, intimidation, and bullying (HIB).

Harassment, intimidation, or bullying means any gesture, any written, verbal or physical act, or any electronic communication, as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:37-14, whether it be a single incident or a series of incidents that:

1. Is reasonably perceived as being motivated by either any actual or perceived characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or a mental, physical or sensory disability; or by any other distinguishing characteristic; and that 2. Takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function, on a school bus, or off school grounds, as provided for in N.J.S.A. 18A:37-15.3; and that 3. Substantially disrupts or interferes with the orderly operation of the school or the rights of other pupils; and that a. A reasonable person should know, under the circumstances, that the act(s) will have the effect of physically or

emotionally harming a pupil or damaging the pupil's property, or placing a pupil in reasonable fear of physical or emotional harm to his/her person or damage to his/her property; or b. Has the effect of insulting or demeaning any student or group of students; or c. Creates a hostile educational environment for the student by interfering with a student's education or by severely or pervasively causing physical or emotional harm to the student.

Schools are required to address harassment, intimidation, and bullying occurring off school grounds, when there is a nexus between the harassment, intimidation, and bullying and the school (e.g., the harassment, intimidation, or bullying substantially disrupts or interferes with the orderly operation of the school or the rights of other students).

Any acts of harassment, intimidation or bullying should be reported to the Principal of the school your child attends.

Most importantly, I would like to thank you for your support in ensuring a healthy, supportive, and welcoming atmosphere throughout our schools. Should you need further information about the district's HIB policy, please feel free to contact our department by phone at 201-393-8151 or email at helfantm@hhschools.org.

Best wishes for a wonderful school year.

Sincerely,

Dr. Matthew Helfant
Anti-Bullying Coordinator