

## The Dignity Act Intent

The goal of The Dignity Act is to create a safe and supportive school climate where students can learn and focus, rather than fear being discriminated against and/or verbally and/or physically harassed.

All public elementary and secondary school students have the right to attend school in a safe, welcoming, considerate, and caring environment.



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## The New York State Dignity For All Students Act (The Dignity Act)

Effective July 1, 2012

[www.p12.nysed.gov/dignityact](http://www.p12.nysed.gov/dignityact)

# The Dignity For All Students Act Overview

## The Dignity Act takes effect on July 1, 2012.

- The New York State Dignity For All Students Act (The Dignity Act) was signed into law on September 13, 2010. This legislation amended State Education Law by creating a new Article 2 – *Dignity For All Students*.
- The Dignity Act amended Section 801-a of New York State Education Law regarding instruction in civility, citizenship and character education by expanding the concepts of tolerance, respect for others, and dignity to include: an awareness and sensitivity in the relations of people, including but not limited to, of different **rac**es, **w**eights, **n**ational **o**rigins, **e**thnic **g**roups, **r**eligi**o**ns, **r**eligi**o**us **p**ractices, **m**ental or **p**hys**i**cal **a**bilities, **s**exual **o**rientations, **g**ender **i**dent**i**ty or **e**xpression, and **s**exes.
- The Dignity Act also amended Section 2801 of the Education Law, instructing Boards of Education to include language in the codes of conduct to comply with The Dignity Act.

## Highlights

**Q: Who is protected by The Dignity Act?**

A: All public elementary and secondary school students are protected by The Dignity Act.

**Q: What does The Dignity Act prohibit?**

A: The Dignity Act prohibits the harassment and discrimination of students by students and by school personnel.

**Q: How does The Dignity Act relate to bullying and hazing?**

A: Bullying and hazing are forms of harassment and discrimination.

**Q: What physical spaces are covered by The Dignity Act?**

A: The Dignity Act applies to behavior on school property (including athletic fields, playgrounds, and parking lots), in school buildings, on a school bus/vehicle, as well as at school-sponsored events or activities.

**Q: How does The Dignity Act relate to the school's Code of Conduct?**

A: The Code of Conduct must be amended to reflect the prohibition of discrimination and harassment of students by students or staff — in age appropriate plain language.

To learn more about  
**The Dignity For  
All Students Act**  
visit

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