SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF STUDENTS

The Board of Education recognizes that harassment of students and staff on the basis of actual or perceived sex, sexual orientation, and/or gender identity and expression is abusive and illegal behavior that harms targets and negatively impacts the school culture by creating an environment of fear, distrust, intimidation and intolerance. The Board further recognizes that preventing and remedying such harassment in schools is essential to ensure a healthy, nondiscriminatory environment in which students can learn and employees can work productively.

Sex-based harassment can be comprised of two types of behavior: sexual harassment and/or gender-based harassment. Sexual harassment is unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature, which can include unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature (see regulation 0110-R for examples). Genderbased harassment includes verbal, nonverbal or physical aggression, intimidation or hostility that is based on actual or perceived gender and sexual stereotypes (see regulation 0110-R for examples). Sexual or gender-based harassment of a student can deny or limit the student's ability to participate in or to receive benefits, services, or opportunities from the school's program.

The Board is committed to providing an educational and working environment that promotes respect, dignity and equality and that is free from all forms of sexual harassment including sexual violence. To this end, the Board condemns and strictly prohibits all forms of sexual harassment on school grounds, school buses and at all school-sponsored activities, programs and events including those that take place at locations outside the district, or outside the school setting if the harassment impacts the individual's education in a way that violates their legal rights, including when harassment is done by electronic means (including on social media). Since sexual violence is a form of sexual harassment, the term "sexual harassment" in this policy will implicitly include sexual violence, even if not explicitly stated.

Because sexual harassment can occur staff to student, staff to staff, student to student, male to female, female to male, male to male or female to female, it will be a violation of this policy for any student, employee or third party (school visitor, vendor, etc.) to sexually harass any student, employee or third party.

In order for the Board to effectively enforce this policy and to take prompt corrective measures, it is essential that all targets of sexual harassment and persons with knowledge of sexual harassment report the harassment immediately. The district will promptly investigate all complaints of sexual harassment, either formal or informal, verbal, via electronic communication or written. Technology includes but is not limited to texting, e-mail, social networks or any electronics formats. To the extent possible, all complaints will be treated in a confidential manner. Limited disclosure may be necessary to complete a thorough investigation. If the complainant reports that they feel unsafe at school due to the nature of the complaint, the district will determine if accommodations need to be made until the issue is resolved.

Sexual harassment is a form of employee misconduct and sanctions will be enforced against those who engage in sexual harassment and against supervisors who knowingly allow such behavior to continue.

If, after appropriate investigation, the district finds that a person has violated this policy, prompt corrective action will be taken in accordance with the applicable collective bargaining agreement, district policy, state and federal law.

All complainants and those who participate in the investigation of a complaint of sexual harassment have the right to be free from retaliation of any kind, when they do so with a good faith belief that sexual harassment has occurred. Such prohibited retaliation can include, but is not limited to, discipline, discrimination, demotion, denial of privileges, or any action that would keep a person from coming forward to make or support a sexual harassment claim. Such actions need not be job- or education-related, or occur in the workplace or educational environment, to constitute unlawful retaliation.

The Superintendent of Schools is directed to develop and implement regulations for reporting, investigating and remedying allegations of sexual harassment. These regulations are to be attached to this policy. In addition, training programs be established for students and employees to raise awareness of the issues surrounding sexual harassment and to implement preventative measures to help reduce incidents of sexual harassment. Age-appropriate instructional materials will be incorporated into the curriculum to educate students so that they can recognize and reduce the incidence of sexual harassment.

This policy, or a simplified version, will be posted in a prominent place in each district facility and will also be published in student registration materials, student, parent and employee handbooks, and other appropriate school publications and posted on the District website.

Periodic review of this policy should be established by the Superintendent in order to determine the policy's effectiveness and compliance with applicable state and federal law, and to recommend revisions to the Board of Education.

Cross-ref:

0115, Student Harassment and Bullying Prevention and Intervention

Ref:

- Education Amendments of 1972, Title IX, 20 U.S.C. §1681 et seq.; 34 CFR 106 et seq.
- Education Law §§10-18 (The Dignity for All Students Act)
- Davis v. Monroe County Board of Education, 526 U.S. 629, 652 (1999)
- Gebser v. Lago Vista Independent School District, 524 U.S, 274 (1998)
- Franklin v. Gwinnett County Public Schools, 503 U.S. 60 (1992)

Cannon v. University of Chicago, 441 U.S. 677 (1979)

Office for Civil Rights Revised Sexual Harassment Guidance (January 19, 2001)

Office for Civil Rights, Dear Colleague Letter: Sexual Harassment Issues (2006)

Office for Civil Rights, Dear Colleague Letter: Bullying (October 26, 2010)

SEXUAL HARASSMENT OF STUDENTS REGULATION

This regulation is intended to create and preserve an educational and working environment free from unlawful sexual harassment on the basis of actual or perceived sex, sexual orientation, and/or gender identity and expression, in furtherance of the district's commitment to provide a healthy and productive environment for all students and employees that promotes respect, dignity and equality.

Sexual Harassment Defined

Sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination and is unlawful under federal and state law. Sexual harassment includes harassment on the basis of actual or perceived sex, sexual orientation, and/or gender identity and expression.

Sexual harassment includes unwelcome conduct which is either of a sexual nature, or which is directed at an individual because of that individual's actual or perceived sex, gender, or sexual orientation when:

- 1. Submission to that conduct or communication is made a term or condition, either explicitly or implicitly, of an employee's employment or a student's education (including any aspect of the student's participation in school-sponsored activities, including athletics, extra curriculum, academic achievement or any other aspect of the student's education); or
- 2. Submission to or rejection of that conduct or communication by an individual is used as the basis in decisions affecting an employee's employment or a student's education; or
- 3. The conduct or communication has the purpose or effect of substantially or unreasonably interfering with an employee's work performance or a student's academic performance or participation in school-sponsored activities, or creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive working or educational environment, even if the complaining individual is not the intended target of the sexual harassment.

Sexual harassment can include unwelcomed sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature, or verbal, nonverbal or physical aggression, intimidation or hostility that is based on sex, gender and sexual orientation stereotypes.

Sexual Violence Defined

Sexual violence means physical sexual acts perpetrated against a person's will or where a person is incapable of giving consent. A person may be incapable of giving consent due to age, drug or alcohol use, or an intellectual or other disability. Sexual violence includes, but is not limited to, acts such as rape, sexual assault, sexual battery and sexual coercion. All such acts of sexual violence are forms of sexual harassment.

Unacceptable Conduct

School-related conduct that the district considers unacceptable and which may constitute sexual harassment includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- 1. Rape, attempted rape, sexual assault, attempted sexual assault, forcible sexual abuse, hazing, and other sexual and gender-based activity of a criminal nature as defined under the State Penal Law;
- 2. Unwelcome sexual advances or invitations or requests for sexual activity, including but not limited to those in exchange for grades, promotions, preferences, favors, selection for extracurricular activities or job assignments, homework etc., or when accompanied by implied or overt threats concerning the target's school evaluations, other benefits or detriments;.
- 3. Unwelcome or offensive public sexual display of affection, including kissing, hugging, making out, groping, fondling, petting, inappropriate touching of one's self or others (e.g., pinching, patting, grabbing, poking), sexually suggestive dancing, and massages;
- 4. Any unwelcome communication that is sexually suggestive, sexually degrading or derogatory or implies sexual motives or intentions, such as sexual remarks or innuendoes about an individual's clothing, appearance or activities; sexual jokes; sexual gestures; public conversations about sexual activities or exploits; sexual rumors and "ratings lists;" howling, catcalls, and whistles; sexually graphic computer files, messages or games, etc;
- 5. Unwelcome and offensive name calling or profanity that is sexually suggestive or explicit, sexually degrading or derogatory, implies sexual intentions, or that is based on sexual stereotypes or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression;
- 6. Unwelcome physical contact or closeness that is sexually suggestive, sexually degrading or derogatory, or sexually intimidating such as the unwelcome touching of another's body parts, cornering or blocking an individual, standing too close, spanking, pinching, following, stalking, frontal body hugs, etc.;
- 7. Unwelcome and sexually offensive physical pranks or touching of an individual's clothing, such as hazing and initiation, "streaking," (running naked in public), "mooning" (exposing one's buttocks), "snuggies" or "wedgies" (pulling underwear up at the waist so it goes in between the buttocks), bra-snapping, skirt "flip-ups," "pantsing" or "spiking" (pulling down someone's pants or swimming suit); pinching; placing hands inside an individual's pants, shirt, blouse, or dress, etc.;
- 8. Unwelcome leers, stares, gestures, or slang that are sexually suggestive; sexually degrading or derogatory or imply sexual motives or intentions;
- 9. Clothing with sexually obscene or sexually explicit slogans or messages;
- 10. Unwelcome and offensive skits, assemblies, and productions that are sexually suggestive, sexually degrading or derogatory, or that imply sexual motives or intentions, or that are based on sexual stereotypes;
- 11. Unwelcome written or pictorial display or distribution (including via electronic devices) of pornographic or other sexually explicit materials such as signs, graffiti, calendars, objects, magazines, videos, films, Internet material, etc.;

- 12. Other hostile actions taken against an individual because of that person's actual or perceived sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, such as interfering with, destroying or damaging a person's work or school area or equipment; sabotaging that person's work or school activities; bullying, yelling, or name calling; or otherwise interfering with that person's ability to work or participate in school functions and activities; and
- 13. Any unwelcome behavior based on sexual stereotypes and attitudes that is offensive, degrading, derogatory, intimidating, or demeaning, including, but not limited to:
 - a. Disparaging remarks, slurs, jokes about or aggression toward an individual because the person displays mannerisms or a style of dress inconsistent with stereotypical characteristics of the person's sex;
 - b. Ostracizing or refusing to participate in group activities with an individual during class projects, physical education classes or field trips because of the individual's actual or perceived sex, sexual orientation, and/or gender identity or expression;
 - c. Taunting or teasing an individual because they are participating in an activity not typically associated with the individual's actual or perceived sex, sexual orientation, or gender.

For purposes of this regulation, action or conduct will be considered "unwelcome" if the student did not request or invite it and regarded the conduct as undesirable or offensive.

Sexual harassment may occur on school grounds, school buses and at all school-sponsored activities, programs and events, including those that take place at locations outside the district, or outside the school setting if the harassment impacts the individual's education in a way that violates their legal rights, including when the harassment is done by electronic means (including on social media).

Determining if Prohibited Conduct is Sexual Harassment

Complaints of sexual harassment will be thoroughly investigated to determine whether the totality of the behavior and circumstances meet any of the elements of the above definition of sexual harassment and should, therefore, be treated as sexual harassment. Not all unacceptable conduct with sexual connotations may constitute sexual harassment. In many cases (other than quid pro quo situations where the alleged harasser offers academic or employment rewards or threatens punishment as an inducement for sexual favors), unacceptable behavior must be sufficiently severe, pervasive and objectively offensive to be considered sexual harassment. If the behavior doesn't rise to the level of sexual harassment, but is found to be objectionable behavior, the individual will be educated and counseled in order to prevent the behavior from continuing.

In evaluating the totality of the circumstances and making a determination of whether conduct constitutes sexual harassment, the individual investigating the complaint should consider:

- 1. The degree to which the conduct affected the ability of the student to participate in or benefit from his or her education or altered the conditions of the student's learning environment or altered the conditions of the employee's working environment;
- 2. The type, frequency and duration of the conduct;
- 3. The identity of and relationship between the alleged harasser and the subject of the harassment (e.g., sexually based conduct by an authority figure is more likely to create a hostile environment than similar conduct by another student or a co-worker);
- 4. The number of individuals involved;
- 5. The age and sex of the alleged harasser and the target of the harassment;
- 6. The location of the incidents and context in which they occurred;
- 7. Other incidents at the school; and
- 8. Incidents of gender-based, but non-sexual harassment.

Reporting Complaints

Any person who believes he or she has been the target of sexual harassment related to the school setting is required to report complaints as soon as possible after the incident in order to enable the district to promptly and effectively investigate and resolve the complaint. Any person who witnesses or is aware of sexual harassment of a student is also encouraged to report the incident or behavior to the district. Targets are encouraged to submit the complaint in writing; however, complaints may be filed verbally.

Complaints must be filed with the Principal, or Title IX coordinator. However, students may go to any district employee with sexual harassment complaints.

Any school employee who receives a reported complaint of sexual harassment from a student will inform the student of the employee's obligation to report the complaint to the school administration, and must then immediately notify the Principal and/or the Title IX coordinator.

In order to assist investigators, targets should document the harassment as soon as it occurs and with as much detail as possible including: the nature of the harassment; dates, times, places it has occurred; name of harasser(s); witness(es) to the harassment; and the target's response to the harassment.

Confidentiality

It is district policy to respect the privacy of all parties and witnesses to complaints of sexual harassment. To the extent possible, the district will not release the details of a complaint or the identity of the complainant or the individual(s) against whom the complaint is filed to any third parties who do not need to know such information. However, because an individual's need for confidentiality must be balanced with the district's legal obligation to provide due process to the

accused, to conduct a thorough investigation, or to take necessary action to resolve the complaint, the district retains the right to disclose the identity of parties and witnesses to complaints in appropriate circumstances to individuals with a need to know. The staff member responsible for investigating complaints will discuss confidentiality standards and concerns with all complainants.

If a complainant requests that his/her name not be revealed to the individual(s) against whom a complaint is filed, the staff member responsible for conducting the investigation will inform the complainant that:

- 1. The request may limit the district's ability to respond to his/her complaint;
- 2. District policy and federal law prohibit retaliation against complainants and witnesses;
- 3. The district will attempt to prevent any retaliation; and
- 4. The district will take strong responsive action if retaliation occurs.

If the complainant still requests confidentiality after being given the notice above, the investigator will take all reasonable steps to investigate and respond to the complaint consistent with the request as long as doing so does not preclude the district from responding effectively to the harassment and preventing the harassment of other students or employees.

Investigation and Resolution Procedure

A. Initial (Building-level) Procedure

The Principal or Title IX coordinator will conduct a preliminary review when they receive a verbal or written complaint of sexual harassment, or if they observe sexual harassment. Except in the case of severe or criminal conduct, the Principal or Title IX coordinator should make all reasonable efforts to resolve complaints informally at the school level. The goal of informal investigation and resolution procedures is to end the harassment and obtain a prompt and equitable resolution to a complaint. All persons involved in an investigation (complainants, witnesses and alleged harassers) will be accorded due process to protect their rights to a fair and impartial investigation. This investigation will be prompt and thorough, and will be completed as soon as possible.

As soon as possible, but no later than **two** working days following receipt of a complaint, the Principal or Title IX coordinator should begin an investigation of the complaint according to the following steps:

1. Interview the target and document the conversation. Instruct the target to have no contact or communication regarding the complaint with the alleged harasser. Ask the target specifically what action they want taken in order to resolve the complaint. Refer the target, as appropriate, to school social workers, school psychologists, crisis team managers, other school staff, or appropriate outside agencies for counseling services.

- 2. Review any written documentation of the harassment prepared by the target. If the target has not prepared written documentation, instruct the target to do so, providing alternative formats for individuals with disabilities and young children, who have difficulty writing and need accommodation. If the complainant refuses to complete a complaint form or written documentation, the Principal or Title IX coordinator will complete a complaint form (see exhibit 0115-E, Student Bullying and Harassment Complaint Form) based on the verbal report.
- 3. Request, review, obtain and preserve relevant evidence of harassment (e.g., documents, emails, phone records, etc.), if any exist.
- 4. Interview the alleged harasser regarding the complaint and inform the alleged harasser that if the objectionable conduct has occurred, it must cease immediately. Document the conversation. Provide the alleged harasser an opportunity to respond to the charges in writing.
- 5. Instruct the alleged harasser to have no contact or communication regarding the complaint with the target and to not retaliate against the target. Warn the alleged harasser that if he/she makes contact with or retaliates against the target, he/she will be subject to immediate disciplinary action.
- 6. Interview any witnesses to the complaint. Where appropriate, obtain a written statement from each witness. Caution each witness to keep the complaint and his/her statement confidential. Staff may be required to cooperate as needed in investigations of suspected sexual harassment.
- 7. Review all documentation and information relevant to the complaint.
- 8. Where appropriate, suggest mediation as a potential means of resolving the complaint. In addition to mediation, use appropriate informal methods to resolve the complaint, including but not limited to:
 - a. Discussion with the accused, informing him or her of the district's policies and indicating that the behavior must stop;
 - b. Suggesting counseling and/or sensitivity training;
 - c. Conducting training for the department or school in which the behavior occurred, calling attention to the consequences of engaging in such behavior;
 - d. Requesting a letter of apology to the complainant;
 - e. Writing letters of caution or reprimand; and/or
 - f. Separating the parties.
- 9. Parent/Student Involvement and Notification
 - a. Parents/guardians of student targets and accused students will be notified within one school day of allegations that are serious or involve repeated conduct.
 - b. The parents of students who file complaints are welcome to participate at each stage of both informal and formal investigation and resolution procedures.
 - c. If either the target or the accused is a disabled student receiving special education services under an IEP or section 504/Americans with Disabilities Act accommodations, the Committee on Special Education will be consulted to determine the degree to which the student's disability either caused or is affected by the discrimination or policy violation. In addition, due process procedures required for persons with disabilities under state and federal law will be followed.

- d. The Principal or Title IX Coordinator (i.e., the investigator) will submit a copy of all investigation and interview documentation to the Superintendent.
- e. The investigator will report back to both the target and the accused, notifying them in writing, and also in person as appropriate regarding the outcome of the investigation and the action taken to resolve the complaint. The investigator will instruct the target to report immediately if the objectionable behavior occurs again or if the alleged harasser retaliates against him/her.
- f. The investigator will notify the target that if he/she desires further investigation and action, he/she may request a district level investigation by contacting the Superintendent of Schools. The investigator will also notify the target of his/her right to contact the New York State Division of Human Rights, the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights and/or a private attorney. Employees may also contact the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or the New York State Division of Human Rights.
- 10. Create a written documentation of the investigation, kept in a secure and confidential location, containing:
 - a. A list of all documentation and other evidence reviewed, along with a detailed summary;
 - b. A list of names of those interviewed along with a detailed summary of their statements;
 - c. A timeline of events;
 - d. A summary of prior relevant incidents, reported or unreported; and
 - e. The final resolution of the complaint, together with any corrective action(s).

If the initial investigation results in a determination that sexual harassment did occur, the investigator will promptly notify the Superintendent, who will then take prompt disciplinary action in accordance with district policy, the applicable collective bargaining agreement, state or federal law.

If a complaint received by the Principal or Title IX Coordinator contains evidence or allegations of serious or extreme harassment, such as employee to student harassment, criminal touching, quid pro quo (e.g., offering an academic or employment reward or punishment as an inducement for sexual favors), or acts which shock the conscience of a reasonable person, the complaint will be referred promptly to the Superintendent. In addition, where the Principal or Title IX coordinator has a reasonable suspicion that the alleged harassment involves criminal activity, he/she should immediately notify the Superintendent, who will then contact appropriate child protection and law enforcement authorities. Where criminal activity is alleged or suspected by a district employee, the accused employee will be suspended pending the outcome of the investigation, consistent with all contractual or statutory requirements.

Any party who is not satisfied with the outcome of the initial investigation by the Principal or the Title IX coordinator may request a district-level investigation by submitting a written complaint to the Superintendent within 30 days.

B. District-level Procedure

The Superintendent will promptly investigate and resolve all sexual harassment complaints that are referred to him/her by a Principal or Title IX coordinator, as well as those appealed to the Superintendent following an initial investigation by a Principal or Title IX coordinator. In the event the complaint of sexual harassment involves the Superintendent, the complaint will be filed with or referred to the Board President, who will refer the complaint to a trained investigator not employed by the district for investigation.

The district level investigation should begin as soon as possible but not later than three working days following receipt of the complaint by the Superintendent or Board President.

In conducting the formal district level investigation, the district will use investigators who have received formal training in sexual harassment investigation or that have previous experience investigating sexual harassment complaints.

If a district investigation results in a determination that sexual harassment did occur, prompt corrective action will be taken to end the harassment. Where appropriate, district investigators may suggest mediation as a means of exploring options of corrective action and informally resolving the complaint.

No later than 30 days following receipt of the complaint, the Superintendent (or in cases involving the Superintendent, the Board-appointed investigator) will notify the target and alleged harasser, in writing, of the outcome of the investigation. If additional time is needed to complete the investigation or take appropriate action, the Superintendent or Board-appointed investigator will provide all parties with a written status report within 30 days following receipt of the complaint.

The target and the alleged harasser have the right to be represented by a person of their choice, at their own expense, during sexual harassment investigations and hearings.

External Remedies

In addition, targets have the right to register sexual harassment complaints with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights (OCR) and the New York State Division of Human Rights (DHR). The OCR can be contacted at (800) 421-3481, 400 Maryland Avenue SW, Washington, DC 20202-1100, or at <u>https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr./docs/howto.html</u>. The DHR can be contacted at (888) 392-3644, <u>www.dhr.ny.gov/complaint</u>, or at 1 Fordham Plaza, Fourth Floor, Bronx, NY 10458.

Nothing in these regulations limits the right of the complainant to file a lawsuit in either state or federal court, or to contact law enforcement officials if the sexual harassment involves unwanted physical touching, coerced physical confinement or coerced sex acts, or other acts which may constitute a crime. Targets of acts of sexual violence have the right to file a criminal complaint

against the accused. Nothing in these regulations shall be construed to limit the right of the complainant to file a criminal complaint or police report.

Retaliation Prohibited

Any act of retaliation against any person who opposes sexually harassing behavior, or who has filed a complaint in good faith, is prohibited and illegal and, therefore, subject to disciplinary action. Likewise, retaliation against any person who has, in good faith, testified, assisted or participated in any manner in an investigation, proceeding or hearing of a sexual harassment complaint is prohibited. For purposes of this policy, retaliation includes but is not limited to: verbal or physical threats, intimidation, ridicule, bribes, destruction of property, spreading rumors, stalking, harassing phone calls, discipline, discrimination, demotion, denial of privileges, any action that would keep a person from coming forward to make or support a sexual harassment claim, and any other form of harassment. Such actions need not be job- or education-related, or occur in the workplace or educational environment, to constitute unlawful retaliation. Any person who retaliates is subject to immediate disciplinary action, up to and including suspension or termination.

Discipline/Penalties and Consequences:

Any individual who violates the sexual harassment policy by engaging in prohibited sexual harassment will be subject to appropriate disciplinary and/or remedial action. Measures available to school authorities include, but are not limited to the following:

<u>Students</u>: Discipline may range from a reprimand up to and including suspension from school, to be imposed consistent with the student conduct and discipline policy and applicable law.

<u>Employees</u>: Discipline may range from a warning up to and including termination, to be imposed consistent with all applicable contractual and statutory rights.

<u>Volunteers</u>: Penalties may range from a warning up to and including loss of volunteer assignment.

<u>Non-employees</u>: (i.e., contractors, subcontractors, vendors, consultants and other persons providing services pursuant to a contract, or their employees): Penalties may range from a warning up to and including loss of district business.

<u>Other individuals</u>: Penalties may range from a warning up to and including denial of future access to school property.

False Complaints

False or malicious complaints of sexual harassment may result in corrective or disciplinary action taken against the complainant.

Training

All students and employees will be informed of this policy in student and employee handbooks, student registration materials and on the District's website. The policy will be easily accessible via the main office in each school building and the Superintendent of Schools' office at the Central Administration offices. All secondary school student body officers will receive district training about the policy at the beginning of each school year.

All new employees will receive information about this policy and regulation at new employee orientation. All other employees will be provided information at least once a year regarding this policy and the district's commitment to a harassment-free learning and working environment. Principals, Title IX coordinators, and other administrative employees who have specific responsibilities for investigating and resolving complaints of sexual harassment will receive yearly training on this policy, regulation and related legal developments.

In addition, age-appropriate curricular materials will be made available so that it can be incorporated in instruction K-12 to ensure that all students are educated to recognize and report sexual harassment, and on appropriate and inappropriate behavior.

Principals in each school and program directors will be responsible for informing students and staff on a yearly basis of the terms of this policy, including the procedures established for investigation and resolution of complaints, general issues surrounding sexual harassment, the rights and responsibilities of students and employees, and the impact of sexual harassment on the target.

BELLMORE-MERRICK CHSD DASA BULLYING OR HARASSMENT FORMAL COMPLAINT FORM

The Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District is committed to providing a safe, supportive environment free from harassment, bullying, intimidation and discrimination for all students. The District encourages the involvement of staff, students, parents and community members in the implementation and reinforcement of the Dignity for All Students Act ("DASA").

If you believe you, or someone else, has been the target of harassment, bullying, cyber-bullying, and/or discrimination, please use this form to report all allegations.

All complaints will be treated in a confidential manner. Anonymous reports may limit the district's ability to respond to the complaint. A prompt and thorough investigation will be conducted for all incident reports. Please complete this form and return it to the Building Principal who is the Dignity Act Coordinator.

School Building	Today's Date	
Type of Referral (check all that apply): Bullying/Ha	rassment	Sexual Harassment
Name and Title of person(s) reporting the incident _		
Reporting person(s) Phone #	_Email	
Name of alleged target(s)		
Name of alleged offender(s)		
Date and Time of incident(s)		
Location of incident(s)		
Description of incident		

Type of Inappropriate Behavior (check all that apply):

Called Mean Names	Sexual Jokes	Hit, Kicked, Punched	
Told Lies/False Rumors	Threatened	Racial Comments	
Sexual Comments	Excluded	Took/Damaged Possessions	
Physical Touching	lectronic Communication		
Other (explain):			

Comments/Actions were based on actual or perceived (please check all that apply):
Race Color Weight National Origin Religion
Ethnic Group Religious Practice Disability Sex
Sexual Orientation Gender Identity/Expression Genetics
Other (specify):
Were any injuries reported? No Yes If yes, please describe:
Name of witnesses/bystanders (if any)
Has the target spoken to school personnel? If yes, name/title:
Has an incident with the same offender been reported before?
If yes, when? To whom?
What was the resolution?
Signature of Complainant:
Name/Signature of Person Receiving this Complaint:
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
Repeat Offender: Yes No DASA Incident: Founded Not Founded
Parent Contact: Yes No If yes, by who/date:
Referral: Yes No Date: