

New York State Law

Dignity for All Students Act (DASA)

*Everyone in school should feel safe and respected
so they can learn and enjoy school*



THIS LAW STATES THAT EVERYONE MUST BE TREATED WITH RESPECT AND CANNOT BE HARASSED OR BULLIED BECAUSE OF THE FOLLOWING CHARACTERISTICS (Real or Perceived) :

Race- *we may look different from one another*

Color- *we may have different skin colors*

Weight- *we are all different shapes and sizes*

National Origin- *we can come from different countries*

Ethnic Group- *we may speak different languages, eat different foods, have special traditions*

Religion- *we may have different beliefs*

Religious Practice- *we may celebrate different holidays*

Sex- *we can be males or females*

Gender- *we may do things differently whether we are male or female*

Gender Identity – *we may relate more to one gender and express male or female characteristics, despite our actual sex*

Sexual orientation – *we may be attracted to someone of the opposite or same sex*

Disability- *some of us may have to do things in a different way and may need assistance*

* Protection is not limited to the above categories

Harassment is: inappropriate words or actions aimed at someone who is different (or you perceive as different) because of their *color, race, weight, ethnic background, religion, religious practice, disability, gender, gender identity, sex or sexual orientation*, which negatively impacts that person's education or mental, emotional or physical well-being. **Some behaviors may include:**

- Making fun of specific characteristics (color, weight, etc)
- Making racial, ethnic or religious slurs
- Physically taunting, hitting or touching someone in a way that makes them uncomfortable
- Texts, phone calls, comments on facebook or other social media sites, or emails that are negatively related to a persons race, ethnic background, disability, etc.

I Can:

- Tell an adult as soon as possible
- Ask the person to stop making those comments/statements
- Not joke about a person's color, race, background, dress, practices, etc.
- Respect differences, ask appropriate questions if I am curious

DIGNITY – THE QUALITY OF HAVING WORTH AND ESTEEM.

TO BE TREATED WITH DIGNITY IS TO BE TREATED WITH RESPECT.



TEASING AND BULLYING...WHEN DOES IT CROSS THE LINE?

Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) is a law that says everyone in school should feel safe and respected so they can learn and enjoy school.



Bullying is: when someone repeatedly and on purpose says or does mean or hurtful things to another person who has a hard time defending him or herself.

Teasing is: playful actions between people of equal power, often friends, and is not meant to harm the person. If someone's feelings get hurt, both parties are willing to work on a resolution.

Types of Bullying:

Physical - hitting, punching, kicking



Verbal - name-calling, racial slurs, threatening, intimidation



Psychological/Relational - spreading rumors, isolating or excluding someone from a group on purpose



Cyber - using the internet, cell phones or other technology to bully someone



Normal Peer Conflict or Teasing	Bullying
Equal power or friends	Imbalance of power (example: one person is bigger, stronger, older, or of higher social status), often not friends
Happens occasionally	Repeated negative actions
Accidental or unintentionally hurtful	Purposeful or meaning to hurt another
Equal emotional reaction	Strong emotional reaction from victim and little or no emotional reaction from bully
Not seeking power	Seeking power or control
Will take responsibility (remorse)	Blames victim (no remorse)
Effort to solve the problem	No effort to solve the problem
No threat of further aggression	Threat of further aggression – both victim and bully believe that the bullying will continue