## What is the Dignity for All Students Act?

The Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) protects all students from **discrimination**, **harassment**, and **bullying** based on race, religion, gender, national origin, ethnic group, and sexual orientation. This includes **online** and **in-person** harassment.

## What does bullying or harassment look like?

Bullying can take many forms, including:
- **Physical abuse**
  - Hitting or pushing
- **Verbal taunting**
  - Teasing, name calling, or offensive jokes
- **Social exclusion**
  - Leaving students out or isolating students
- **Written harassment**
  - Graffiti, drawings, notes, or photos
  - Texts, emails, or other social media

## How do I know if my child is being bullied or harassed?

Some children may not share instances of bullying with adults. Signs that your child is being harassed can include:
- Change in behavior
- Injuries, marks, or bruises
- Lost or destroyed possessions
- Complaints of headaches or stomach aches
- Difficulty sleeping
- Low grades or loss of interest in school
- Faking sick or avoiding school

**It is important to remember that all children will respond to bullying differently.**

## What is my school required to do?

Your school should have policies and procedures in place to protect students from bullying and harassment. All employees have been trained to recognize and respond to potential acts of discrimination and harassment.

In addition to official curricula and Codes of Conduct guiding student interactions, your school is required to have a DASA coordinator who is responsible for overseeing the district's investigation of the incident, as well as documenting that it occurred.

Once an incident is reported, the principal or campus designee is required to respond within two days.

## What should I do if I believe my child is being bullied or harassed?

First and foremost, you should **contact someone at your school** to report the incident. This can be the DASA coordinator, the school principal, a teacher or counselor, or any other staff member. If the bullying or harassment is based on your child's race, religion, gender, national origin, ethnic group, or sexual orientation, you can also directly contact the New York State Education Department in one of three ways:
1) Call our parent hotline at 800-469-8224.
2) Contact the New York State Education Department directly at (718) 722-2445.
3) Make an anonymous report by emailing nysparenthotline@nyu.edu.

If you have reported the incident and the behavior continues, you should **file a follow-up report** to ensure that the DASA coordinator remains aware of the situation and inform offices at the New York State Education Department at (718) 722-2445 or (518) 486-6090 if you believe your child is unsafe.