

What is DASA?

DASA is the Dignity for All Students Act. The intent of the Dignity Act is to provide all public elementary and secondary school students with a safe and supportive environment free from discrimination, harassment, bullying, taunting, or intimidation, as well as to integrate civility, citizenship, and character education into the public school curriculum.

The Dignity Act was signed into law on September 13, 2010 and took effect on July 1, 2012. Amendments to the act are effective as of July 1, 2013.

The Dignity Act also 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, different races, weights, national origins, ethnic groups, religions, religious practices, mental or physical abilities, sexual orientations, gender identity, and sexes.

<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/dignityact>

School Phone Numbers

Smithtown East
Main Office- 631-382-2705
Smithtown West
Main Office- 631-382-2905
Accompsett Middle
Main Office- 631-382-2305
Great Hollow Middle
Main Office- 631-382-2805
Nesapeake Middle
Main Office- 631-382-5105
Accompsett Elementary
Main Office- 631-382-4155
Dogwood Elementary
Main Office- 631-382-4255
Mills Pond Elementary
Main Office- 631-382-4305
Mt Pleasant Elementary
Main Office- 631-382-4355
Smithtown Elementary
Main Office- 631-382-4505
St. James Elementary
Main Office- 631-382-4455
Tackan Elementary
Main Office- 631-382-2675

District-Wide Coordinator:

Kevin Colon
Administrator for Guidance and Related
Student Services 631-382-2014

*DASA documents & the Bullying
Reporting Form can be found @
www.smithtown.k12.ny.us*



*Dignity For All
Students Act*

A Guide for Parents



"Don't make the assumption that s/he's done something to bring on the teasing. Teasing isn't always logical, and for your kid it doesn't matter why- it just matters that it's happening."

~Peggy Moss

What is bullying?

Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior among school aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. Bullying includes actions such as making threats, spreading rumors, attacking someone physically or verbally, and excluding someone from a group on purpose.

What is not bullying?

These are some examples of what is not bullying:

Typical Peer Conflict

1. Equal power between students
2. Students involved may be friends
3. Negative actions do not follow a pattern
4. Conflict non pre-meditated and no real intention to cause harm
5. Both students play active role.

Accidents or Misunderstandings

1. Someone says something and didn't know it would upset you, apologizes
2. Person is sad that you are upset
3. Someone borrows something without asking but gives it back when asked to
4. A person accidentally bumps into you or pushes past you, and says "sorry"
5. A person doesn't agree with everything you say but respects your opinion

*Isabel Burk, Director of the Health Network, Dignity Act Specialist

What are the warning signs?

Signs a Child is Being Bullied

Look for changes in your child. However, be aware that not all children who are bullied exhibit warning signs.

Some signs that may point to a bullying problem are:

- Unexplainable injuries
- Lost or destroyed clothing, books, electronics, or jewelry
- Frequent headaches or stomach aches, feeling sick or faking illness
- Changes in eating habits, like suddenly skipping meals or binge eating. Kids may come home from school hungry because they did not eat lunch.
- Difficulty sleeping or frequent nightmares
- Declining grades, loss of interest in schoolwork, or not wanting to go to school
- Sudden loss of friends or avoidance of social situations
- Feelings of helplessness or decreased self esteem
- Self-destructive behaviors such as running away from home, harming themselves, or talking about suicide

If you know someone in serious distress or danger, don't ignore the problem. **Get help right away.**

www.stopbullying.gov

STOP
cyberbullying

What is cyberbullying?

Cyberbullying is bullying that takes place using electronic technology. Examples of cyberbullying include mean text messages or emails, rumors sent by email or posted on social networking sites, and embarrassing pictures, videos, websites, or fake profiles.

What do I do if my child is being bullied?

1. Go to the Smithtown Central School District Website
 - a. Click on District or Parents/Students
 - b. Click on DASA (Dignity for All Students Act)
 - c. Click on Harrassment and/orBullying Complaint Form.
2. Print and complete the Harassment and/or Bullying Complaint Form.
3. Contact a DASA Dignity Act Coordinator at your child's school.