

## **New York State’s Protected Groups under the Dignity for All Students Act (DASA)**

- 1. Race**
- 2. Color**
- 3. Weight**
- 4. National Origin/Ethnicity**
- 5. Religion**
- 6. Religious Practice**
- 7. Disability**
- 8. Sexual Orientation**
- 9. Gender**
- 10. Gender Identity or Expression**
- 11. Sex**

**DASA Overview:** “No student shall be subjected to harassment by employees or students on school property or at a school function; nor shall any student be subjected to discrimination based on a person’s actual or perceived: race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender (including gender identity or expression), or sex by school employees or students on school property or at a school function.” (Section 12, Article 1 of the New York State Dignity For All Students Act, New York State Education Law Article 2, Effective July 1, 2012.

### **Definitions**

**Bullying:** Generally, involves the following characteristics:

- ✓ Imbalance of power
- ✓ Intent to cause harm
- ✓ Repetition

**Harassment:** Does not have to include intent to harm, be directed toward a specific target, or involve repeated incidents.

**Discrimination:** Exclusion and negative treatment of individuals or groups of people based the real or perceived identity of an individual or group.

**Target or Victim:** An individual who is the intended person hurt by bullying, harassment or discrimination.

**Bully or Perpetrator:** A person or group of people who intentionally and repeatedly harass, bully or discriminate against a person based on biases toward the person/group.

**Advocate or Defender:** A person who helps the target of bullying, harassment and discrimination by reporting, standing up for the target or seeking help from a teacher, school administrator or other school staff.

**Cyberbullying:** The use of the internet or other types of social networking sites, texting or communications with the intention of spreading lies, miss information or sharing photos that damage a person's reputation and are harmful to the person emotionally and socially.

**School Climate:** The culture and environment of the school that promotes learning, provides a safe environment and creates a positive environment for all students, teachers and staff.

**Bystander:** Someone who witnesses bullying, harassment and discrimination.

**Advocate:** A person who helps the target of bullying, harassment and discrimination by reporting, standing up for the target or seeking help from a teacher, school administrator or other school staff.

**Resources:**

1. Stopbullying.gov
2. SAMHSA (Know Bullying App)
3. CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
4. Nobullying.com
5. Stopbullyingnowfoundation.org
6. Stompoutbullying.org
7. Teaching Tolerance
8. Pacer's National Bullying Prevention <http://www.pacer.org/bullying/>