

**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/>