



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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Acting Commissioner

October 17, 2011

TO: Chief School Administrators
Charter School Lead Persons

FROM: Andrew Smarick, Deputy Commissioner

SUBJECT: Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act

I am writing to inform you of new professional development requirements in the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act (*P.L.2010, c.122*), enacted by the New Jersey Legislature in January 2011. Lawmakers recognized that harassment, intimidation or bullying (HIB) in school settings is a growing concern, noting that the chronic persistence of school bullying has led to student suicides across the country, including New Jersey. Reports of this kind prompted legislators to amend and create additional statutory requirements to strengthen standards and procedures for preventing, reporting, investigating and responding to New Jersey's schools beginning in the 2011-2012 school year and to include an HIB curriculum in teacher and educational leader preparation programs.

The department has worked with a task force to develop the attached guidance document, *Guidance for Teacher and Educational Leader Professional Development on Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying*, which outlines required topics for inclusion in professional development programs for teachers, educational services professionals, and educational leaders. The professional development requirements will help to ensure that school personnel are equipped to work collaboratively in developing and implementing preventive measures that contribute to a positive school climate in which all students can experience a safe environment for learning.

Additional resources on anti-bullying are available on the department's website at <http://www.state.nj.us/education/students/safety/behavior/hib/#si>. By Fall 2011, this website will also include a Power Point presentation explaining the school and district responsibilities under the law and best practices for HIB prevention and intervention (<http://www.state.nj.us/education/students/safety/behavior/hib/overview.shtml>) and a comprehensive guidance document in support of the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act.

If you have any questions related to the guidance that accompanies this memorandum, please contact Carol Albritton at 609.777.4482 or by emailing carol.albritton@doe.state.nj.us.

AS/CP/EAS/CA/L:\Anti-Bullying\Memo To Csas Re PD Requirements For Anti-Bullying.Doc

Attachment

c: Members, State Board of Education
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