

## *Dignity for All Students Act (DASA)*

In September 2010, New York State leaders approved the Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) to help ensure that schools have the tools and resources to afford all students an educational environment in which they can thrive. The statewide task force developed guidelines for implementation on July 1, 2012. Additionally the Dignity for All Students Act was amended on July 1, 2013.

The focus is on ensuring that all students attending Smithtown Central School District are in a safe and supportive environment free from discrimination, intimidation, taunting, harassment, and bullying whether in the classroom, on school property, on a school bus and/or at a school function.

### **About DASA**

#### **Q: Who's protected under the Dignity Act?**

**A:** The Dignity Act applies to the protection of all public elementary and secondary school students and prohibits the harassment and discrimination of students by students and by school personnel.

#### **Q: How does the Dignity Act relate to bullying and hazing?**

**A:** Bullying and hazing are forms of harassment and discrimination.

#### **Q: What is bullying?**

**A:** Bullying is unwanted, aggressive behavior among school-aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior must be aggressive and include:

An imbalance of power

Repetition

#### **Q: What physical spaces are covered?**

**Q: How does the Dignity Act relate to a school's Code of Conduct?**

**A:** The Code of Conduct reflects the prohibition of discrimination and harassment of students by students or staff.

**Q: Does the Dignity Act require any training?**

**A:** Yes. The Dignity Act mandates that schools provide training for all employees to increase awareness and sensitivity to discrimination or harassment and civility in the relations of all people.

**Helpful Resources**

- NYSED Website on DASA

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