

Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) Self-Assessment Report Card

Galloway Township Middle School

Introduction:

The Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act of 2011 requires that school districts post the “grades” of a self-assessment created by the New Jersey State Department of Education. The self-assessment covers the program from January 5, 2011 through June 30, 2013, and assesses eight categories, including: programs to prevent harassment, intimidation and bullying; staff training; student curriculum and instruction; proper staffing; and reporting and investigating procedures. Each self-assessment was completed by the School Safety Team, including the district Anti-Bullying Coordinator and our school-level Anti-Bullying Specialists (school guidance counselors), along with other members of the team. The categories and their scores are:

HIB Programs, Approaches or Other Initiatives 10 (Max =15)

Training on the BOE Approved HIB Policy 6 (Max =9)

Other Staff Instruction and Training Programs 8 (Max =15)

Curriculum and Instruction on HIB and Related Information and Skills 6 (Max =6)

HIB Personnel 8 (Max =9)

School Level HIB Incident Reporting Procedures 6 (Max =6)

HIB Investigative Procedures 10 (Max =12)

HIB Reporting 2(Max=3)

School Grade 56 (Max=75)

District Grade 54 (Max=75)

To date, the District Assistant Principals, School Anti-Bullying Specialists (ABS) (School Counselors) and District Anti-Bullying Coordinator (ABC)(Supervisor of Testing, Guidance, Health Services and Grants Management) meet on a monthly basis to discuss the various school and district initiatives and incidents of HIB. This was in follow-up to a meeting held at the end of the school year with the school safety teams at each school. The administrators and ABSs met with the ABC and discussed which initiatives were working and which needed to be fine-tuned. We have added six more lessons "c" to our anti-bullying curriculum (which are taught on the last six early dismissal days in the school year). These are in addition to the six in the first month of school and the six "b" lessons for early dismissal days. In addition, the counselors have added additional classroom guidance lessons and have re-energized the Peer Mediation program.

We will do the same "debriefing" at the end of the 2013-2014 school year and during the summer months. We believe that we are learning what initiatives work best for our children and families by evaluating what we are doing. While we continue to struggle to complete all the documentation that is required by the mandate in a timely manner we believe that this year our referrals are more appropriate and truly involve HIB. We believe that our education with our staff, students and parents has been

proactive and we are seeing a decrease in HIB behaviors/actions across the district due to successful implementation of our program.

As a reminder, the following definition is used in determining HIB (*N.J.S.A. 18A:37-14*):

HIB means any gesture, any written, verbal or physical act, or any electronic communication, whether it be a **single incident** or a **series of incidents**, that:

- Is reasonably **perceived as being motivated** either by an **actual or perceived characteristic**, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or a mental, physical or sensory disability, or by **any other distinguishing characteristic**;
- Takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function, or on a school bus; **or off school grounds**, as provided for in N.J.S.A. 18A:37-15.3,
- Substantially disrupts or interferes with the orderly operation of the school or the rights of other students; **and that**
- A reasonable person should know, under the circumstances, will have the effect of **physically or emotionally harming** a student or **damaging the student's property**, or placing a student in reasonable **fear of physical or emotional harm** to his person or damage to his property; or
- Has the effect of **insulting or demeaning** any student or group of students; or
- Creates a **hostile educational environment** for the student by interfering with a student's education or by **severely or pervasively** causing physical or emotional harm to the student.

You can learn more about the district's Anti-Bullying policy and our "Bully Proofing Program" here:

<http://www.gtps.k12.nj.us/parents.html>