

The Anti-Bullying Rights Act of 2011

On January 5, 2011, the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act (ABR) was signed into law. The ABR was designed to strengthen the standards and procedures for preventing, reporting, investigating, and responding to incidents of harassment, intimidation and bullying (HIB) of students that occur on school grounds and off school grounds under specified circumstances.

HIB Grades Reporting Information

The Anti-Bullying Rights Act of 2011 requires all New Jersey schools and districts to provide parents and the public with their annual self-assessed anti-bullying grade.

The New Jersey Department of Education developed a self-assessment grading system form to address the efforts of each school in meeting the requirements of the Anti-Bullying Rights Act.

The grading rubric assesses the schools performance with strategies to prevent harassment, intimidation, and bullying (HIB) and evaluates eight core elements and indicators:

1. HIB Prevention Programs and Other Initiatives
2. Training on BOE-Approved HIB Policy
3. Staff Instruction and Training Programs
4. Curriculum & Instruction on HIB & Related Information and Skills
5. HIB Personnel
6. HIB Incident Reporting Procedures
7. HIB investigations Procedures
8. HIB Reporting

The self-assessment gives the school a raw score of data and a sum of the ratings for the indicators from 0 to 78. The maximum total score for a school is 78. A point value is assigned to each indicator based on the selected rating category as follows:

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|------------------------------------|----------|
| • Does not meet the requirements | 0 points |
| • Partially meets the requirements | 1 point |
| • Meets All Requirements | 2 points |
| • Exceeds the Requirements | 3 points |

As explained by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE), the NJDOE “is not issuing any associated value or ranking for the raw and average scores. The raw and average scores reflect the school and school district’s degree of compliance with the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act (ABR), as determined primarily through each school’s self-assessment of its implementation of the ABR”.

District Grade (2016-2017)

The Cape May City Elementary School scored 78 out of a possible 78 points on the HIB self-assessment. The district completed the assessment at the end of the 2017 school year in order to be able to evaluate and report it during the 2017-2018 school year.

Our district has conscientiously implemented the requirements found in the ABR. The district is compliant reporting and investigating incidents of HIB. Remediation interventions and consequences have been provided in accordance with the district HIB policy.

Our school has created a positive school climate and culture with the implementation of school-based programs and initiatives focusing on anti-bullying behaviors to include:

- The Green Dot Anti-Bullying Program
- The Project Wisdom Character Education Program
- The MindUp Curriculum
- The Fish Philosophy

HIB education and awareness are high priority in providing a safe and nurturing school environment with staff, students, parents, and the community in our district. The School Safety Team meets at least two times a year. Team members include: the Superintendent/Principal, Safety Coordinator, Anti-Bullying Specialist/Coordinator, Business Administrator, Manager of Facilities and Grounds, School Nurse, Director of Food Services, Representatives from the Board of Education, teachers, parents, law enforcement personnel, emergency management personnel, and other members of the community.

The 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 HIB Self-Assessments have helped our school to review different strategies in order to provide educational trainings on the HIB protected categories to benefit our students, staff, volunteers, contracted service providers, Board of Education members, and community. This Core Element has been met during the 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 school years.

Every month during the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 school years, students in grades K – 6 participated in HIB Life Skill classes with hands-on activities focusing on the protected categories. The topics include: Family, Respect of Gender, Gratitude and National Origin, Religion, Color, Disabilities, Race, and Other Distinguishing Characteristics.

The Fish Philosophy, “Play, Make Their Day, Be There, and Choose Your Attitude”, was introduced during the 2017-2018 school year by the administration and district guidance counselor. The curriculum was presented to: students, staff, Board of Education members, parents, members of the district school safety team.

The staff will continue to communicate with families by providing information about the HIB instructional programs and engage families in Anti-Bullying activities, events, and meetings.

The district will also continue to provide and improve training for all staff members, administrators, volunteers, and contracted vendors to carry out the requirements of the law.

Anti-Bullying Coordinator/Specialist

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HIB Reporting Procedure (Links)

Guidance for the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act - NJDOE Memo

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/students/safety/behavior/hib/guidancememo.pdf>

Guidance for on Implementing the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act

<http://www.nj.gov/education/students/safety/behavior/hib/guidance.pdf>

Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act (P.L.2010, c.122)

Link to http://www.njleg.state.nj.us/2010/Bills/PL10/122_.PDF)

New Jersey Department of Education
School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades
under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights
District and School Grade Report
2016-2017

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----- DISTRICT=09-0710-CAPE MAY CITY -----											
SCHOOL	HIB Programs, Approaches or Other Initiatives (MAX=15)	Training on the BOE-Approved HIB Policy (MAX=9)	Other Staff Instruction and Training Programs (MAX=15)	Curriculum and Instruction on HIB and Related Information and Skills (MAX=6)	HIB Personnel (MAX=9)	School-Level HIB Incident Reporting Procedure (MAX=6)	HIB Investigative Procedure (MAX=12)	HIB Reporting (MAX=6)	School Grade (MAX=78)		
050-CAPE MAY CITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	15	9	15	6	9	6	12	6	78		
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DISTRICT GRADE									78		