

WHAT IS DASA?

In 2012, New York State leaders implemented the Dignity for All Students Act (DASA/The Dignity Act), which reads:

It is hereby declared to be a policy of the State to afford all students in public schools an environment free of discrimination and harassment. The purpose of this article is to foster civility in public schools and to prevent and prohibit conduct that is inconsistent with the school's educational mission.

No student shall be subjected to harassment by school 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, or sex.

Research indicates that there is a direct link between success in school and the school learning environment. Students are more likely to achieve their full potential in schools that have positive school cultures and environments in which students feel safe and supported.

The Ithaca City School District is committed to creating a safe and caring learning environment in which ALL students can succeed.

Dignity Act documents and our Bullying Reporting Form can be found online at www.ithacacityschools.org/DASA



For additional support, please contact:
Robert Van Keuren, Chief Investigation Officer,
at (607) 274-2133.

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DIGNITY FOR ALL STUDENTS ACT

A Guide for Parents and Caregivers



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DASA PROTOCOL

Student, staff member, or caregiver experiences, witnesses, or hears about bullying, harassment, discrimination, or hazing.

If immediate help is needed AND there is a safety issue, all witnesses or students subjected to harm should find a staff person. Individuals alleged to have violated DASA are separated, and intervention occurs to ensure safety.

The Bullying Reporting Form is helpful in cataloging the details of the event and should be completed by a student, staff member, or caregiver in a timely manner. Copies should be immediately provided to the appropriate Dignity Act Coordinator (see "Contacts").

The Dignity Act Coordinator or their designee begins an investigation and resolution process of the complaint per Policy 0115-R.

Caregivers are notified (notification may occur earlier depending on the situation). If an investigation deems that the event occurred, every attempt is made to permanently stop the bullying, cyberbullying, harassment, discrimination, or hazing as outlined in the Code of Conduct, which may include education, restorative practices, remediation, and/or consequences.

Consequences to the individual who has violated The Dignity Act cannot be shared with the target without express written consent from them and their caregivers.

FAQs

Q: Who is protected under DASA?

A: DASA protects all public elementary and secondary school students. It prohibits the harassment and discrimination of students by students and by school personnel.

Q: How does DASA relate to bullying, cyber-bullying, and hazing?

A: Bullying, cyberbullying, and hazing are forms of harassment and discrimination.

Q: What physical spaces are covered?

A: DASA applies to behavior on school property (including athletic fields, playgrounds, and parking lots), in school buildings, on school buses or vehicles, and at school-sponsored events or activities.

Q: Does the ICSD have anti-bullying programs?

A: Yes. The ICSD has many programs that address the prevention of harassment, discrimination, and bullying. DASA requirements support and enhance these programs. DASA provides structures for comprehensive and consistent training and intervention to build a caring school climate in every building.

Q: What should I do if a student is being bullied, is bullying others, or has witnessed bullying?

A: Contact an ICSD staff member you trust or the Dignity Act Coordinator in your building, and/or complete the Bullying Reporting Form, which can be found at ithacacityschools.org/DASA.

Q: Does DASA require any training?

A: Yes. DASA mandates that the Dignity Act Coordinator at each building and department ensure that all employees are trained to increase awareness of and sensitivity to discrimination, harassment, bullying, cyberbullying, and hazing, as well as to build civility in the relations of all people.

CONTACTS

BUILDING/ DEPT	DIGNITY ACT COORDINATOR	PHONE
Belle Sherman	Jeff Tomasik	(607) 274-2206
Beverly J. Martin	Samantha Little	(607) 274-2209
Boynton Middle	Lauren Wright	(607) 274-2241
Caroline	Jessa Salibrici	(607) 539-7155
Cayuga Heights	Aileen Grainger	(607) 257-8557
DeWitt Middle	Daniel McGrath	(607) 257-3222
Enfield	Stephen Anderson	(607) 274-2221
Fall Creek	Tara Caiza	(607) 274-2214
Ithaca High	Caren Arnold	(607) 274-2143
Lehman ACS	Keith Harrington	(607) 274-2183
Northeast	Julie Humble	(607) 257-2121
South Hill	Arthur Brown, Jr.	(607) 274-2129
Athletics	Kari Burke	(607) 274-2155
District and Transportation	Robert Van Keuren	(607) 274-2133
Early Childhood	Deborah Jordan	(607) 277-3060
Fine and Performing Arts	Daphne Shululu	(607) 274-2252