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Bully-FREE ZONE

A Guide for Parents & Students



BAYONNE BOARD of Education

FEBRUARY 2017

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Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Bayonne Board of Education prohibits acts of bullying, harassment and intimidation of students and staff. The board has determined that a safe and civil environment in school is necessary for students to learn and achieve high academic standards, and for staff to educate students effectively.

Harassment, intimidation or bullying like other disruptive or violent behaviors, is conduct that disrupts both a student's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate its pupils in a safe environment. All members of the Bayonne public schools community have a right to live and work in an environment that is safe. Harassment and bullying will not be tolerated because it can lead to more serious violence, and because such behavior is gravely inconsistent with district efforts to improve academic performance, improve school attendance and reduce the drop-out rate. Students who are fearful can't give the single-minded attention to school they need to succeed.

All students and staff are expected to treat each other with civility and respect and not to engage in behavior that is disruptive or violent. Therefore, the school district will not tolerate acts of harassment, intimidation or bullying against any students or staff.

Sincerely,

Patricia L. McGeehan

Patricia L. McGeehan, Ed.D., *Superintendent*

Steps for Students

How you respond to bullying can make a difference in how you and others are treated in your school.



- Speak up or offer support when someone is being bullied.
- Seek help from an adult. Report bullying or harassment incidents to the principal or guidance counselor.
- Privately support those being hurt with kind words.
- Express disapproval of bullying by not joining in the laughter, teasing or gossip.
- Defuse a problem situation by taking the bully aside and asking him or her to 'cool it'.
- Speak out in support of respect for all people.

Strategies for Parents

The best protection parents can offer their children is to foster their confidence and independence so children are willing to respond appropriately when necessary.

- Convince your child that he or she is not at fault and that the bully's behavior is the source of the problem.
- Teach your child to be self-confident and firm in response to bullying rather than hostile or antagonistic.
- Help your child develop or strengthen friendships and interests that foster acceptance and success.
- Work collaboratively with school personnel to address the problem.
- Arrange a conference with school staff to obtain practical advice and intervention with the bully.

