

Chautauqua Lake Dignity Act Procedure

New York State's Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) seeks to provide the State's public elementary and secondary school students with a safe and supportive environment free from discrimination, intimidation, taunting, harassment, and bullying on school property, a school vehicle/bus, and/or at a school function.

The Dignity Act states that it is the policy of the State of New York to afford all students in public schools an environment free of discrimination and harassment (Education Law §10). Educators are encouraged to incorporate into core subject areas the principles embodied by the Dignity Act: that no student shall be subject to harassment, bullying, or discrimination by employees or students and includes:

1. denial of access to school facilities including, but not limited to, restrooms, changing rooms, locker rooms, and/or field trips...
2. application of a dress code, specific grooming or appearance standards...
3. use of name(s) and pronoun(s) or the pronunciation of name(s)...
4. any other form of harassment, bullying, and/or discrimination... **based on a person's actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender (which includes gender identity and/or expression), or sex.**

The Chautauqua Lake School District is committed to creating a learning environment that is safe and supportive of every student. In order to ensure such an environment, the district has implemented the following procedures:

- Dignity Act coordinators have been designated and their names displayed publically
- All district employees are trained annually to promote a school climate that is free of bullying; this includes all coaches that are required to complete a DASA course.
- All alleged incidents of bullying and/or harassment under DASA will be thoroughly investigated by the DASA coordinator or designee.
 - All incidents are documented using the "Dignity Complaint Form"
 - All staff must report incidents they observe or hear
 - Incidents must be reported orally to an administrator within one school day and in writing (via discipline report) within two school days
 - DASA coordinators must report data and trends related to bullying and harassment annually to the Superintendent
 - No retaliatory action against any person who, acting reasonably and in good faith, makes a report or initiates, testifies, participates, or assists in formal or informal proceedings

DIGNITY ACT VIOLATION REPORTING GUIDANCE

Incident is witnessed and/or reported to a trusted adult.



Adult or student reports the incident to the building principal (orally) within 24 hours and a written follow-up (discipline report) is submitted to the principal within 48 hours of the incident.



DASA Coordinator does an investigation of the incident and documents the incident using the [Dignity Complaint Form](#) (Policy 7550). All documentation is reviewed by the building principal and any necessary discipline is determined.



Incident documentation, remedy/outcome, and any disciplinary action are submitted to the building DASA coordinator.

DASA Coordinator Elementary = Kara Smith, School Counselor

DASA Coordinator Secondary = Katrina Cummings, School Psychologist