

GREAT NECK SAFE SCHOOL CLIMATE PLAN

Rationale:

An Act Concerning the Strengthening of School Bullying Laws, Public Act 11-232, makes significant changes in the bullying statute effective July 1, 2012 and imposes significant new responsibilities on school personnel.

Effective January 26, 2015, two additional public acts were established with the goal of ensuring a safe school climate.

Public Act 14—172: AN ACT CONCERNING IMPROVING EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES THROUGH EDUCATION AND ENSURING SAFE SCHOOL CLIMATES.

<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2014/act/pa/pdf/2014PA-00172-R00SB-00106-PA.pdf>

Public Act 14—234: AN ACT CONCERNING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT.

<http://www.cga.ct.gov/2014/ACT/pa/pdf/2014PA-00234-R00HB-05593-PA.pdf>

Great Neck School is committed to creating and maintaining an educational environment free from bullying, harassment and discrimination.

Definition (new) of Bullying:

The repeated use by one or more students of written, verbal or electronic communication, such as cyber-bullying, or physical act or gesture directed at another student attending school in that same school district that:

- Causes physical or emotional harm to such student or damage to such student's property;
- Places such student in reasonable fear of harm to himself or herself or of damage to his property;
- Creates a hostile environment (a situation in which bullying among students is sufficiently severe or persuasive to alter the condition of the school climate) at school for such student;
- Infringes on the rights of such student at school;
- Substantially disrupts the education process or orderly operation of a school.

Bullying shall include, but not be limited to, a written, verbal or electronic communication or physical act or gesture based on any actual or perceived differentiating characteristics, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, socioeconomic status, academic status, physical appearance, or mental, physical or developmental or sensory disability, or by association with an individual or group who has, or is perceived to have, one or more of such characteristics.

Our School Responsibilities:

- District Safe School Climate Coordinator appointed July 1, 2012;
- Safe School Climate Specialist (building level) appointed July 1, 2012;
- Establish a Safe School Climate Committee (include one parent);
- Develop and implement a Safe School Climate Plan;
- Complete a Safe School Climate Assessment biennially on or after July 1, 2012.

Committee Responsibilities:

- Receive and review copies of completed reports following investigations of bullying;
- Identify and address patterns of bullying among students in the school;
- Review and amend school policies relating to bullying;
- Review and make recommendations to the District Safe School Climate Coordinator;
- Educate students, school employees and parents/guardians of students on issues relating to bullying;
- Collaborate with the District Safe School Climate Coordinator in the collection of data regarding bullying;
- Maintain pro-active school programs such as character education and peer mentoring to build a positive school climate using all available resources
- Use school climate/parent feedback survey to develop school-wide goals and areas of focus to improve/enhance school climate.