

THE DIGNITY ACT

(CHAPTER 482 OF THE LAWS OF 2010)

Massapequa Public School District
April 19, 2012

The Dignity Act

- ▣ “Established with the broad legislative intent to provide a school environment free of discrimination and harassment.”

(students and staff)

- ▣ Broadens the defined “protected classes” identified in the legislation:

...”those who may experience intimidation or abuse based on actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender or sex.”

The Dignity Act

- ▣ “The Act provides a response to the number of harassed and stigmatized students skipping school and engaging in high risk behaviors by prohibiting discrimination in public schools and establishing the basis for protective measures such as training and model policies.”
- ▣ The goal is a more “nurturing environment in our schools.”

The Dignity Act

- ▣ Policy Component
- ▣ Training : Raise awareness and sensitivity
Prevent and Respond
- ▣ Dignity Act Coordinator (building-based)
- ▣ Curricular Component

The Dignity Act

- ▣ Students have played, and will continue to play a critical role in discussion, on committees, as leaders and facilitators providing input and feedback...

The Dignity Act

- ▣ Timeline for Implementation:

September – October, 2011

As SED continues to promulgate regulations and requirements, school leaders and personnel attend training and workshops.

The Dignity Act

▣ November, 2011:

Student Advisory Council, Shared Decision Making Teams start the process of discussing the law in addition to reviewing the Code of Conduct for alignment and compliance.

The Dignity Act

▣ January, 2012:

The Dignity Act legislation, NYSED Fact Sheet, definitions are distributed to all building principals to begin to share with their faculty and staff.

Same information is shared with PTA Council at their monthly meeting.

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▣ February – March, 2012:

District-wide committee in place to facilitate review and familiarity with programs and initiatives related to the Dignity Act.

Resources and materials shared with building leaders to build capacity to infuse The Dignity Act within the curriculum.

The Dignity Act

▣ April, 2012:

Presentation to the Board of Education in public forum, of proposed Policy which goes into effect July 1, 2012, and District's steps taken to comply with all aspects of The Dignity Act.

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▣ July 1, 2012:

All provisions of the Dignity Act go into effect.

On-going training for building leaders.

On-going review of curriculum and programs.