


Anti-Bullying Parent Presentation
Hannah Caldwell
Elementary School



PRESENTER

Janette Tramuta

ANTI-BULLYING SPECIALIST

and

ANTI-BULLYING COUNSELOR

Anti-Bullying Law



- **Bullying program implemented September 2011 as a result of the persistent negative consequences of bullying behavior**
 - **Effects:**
 - **Students**
 - **All school personnel**
 - **Administration**
 - **Board of Education**

Reasons Behind the Anti-Bullying Legislation



- **Report in 2010 identified a need “to strengthen the standards and procedures for preventing, reporting, investigating, and responding to incidents of harassment, intimidation, and bullying of students that occur in school and off the school premises”**

Harassment ,Intimidation and Bullying Definition Adopted by the Union Board of Education



- **“Harassment, intimidation or bullying” means any gesture, any written, verbal or physical act, or any electronic communication, whether it be a single incident or a series of incidents**
- **is reasonably perceived as being motivated either by any actual or perceived characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or a mental, physical or sensory [handicap]disability, or by any other distinguishing characteristic**

New School District Staff Functions



- **Anti-Bullying Coordinator (District)**
 - Mrs. Nicole Ahern
- **Anti-Bullying Specialist (School)**
 - Mrs. Janette Tramuta
- **Anti-Bullying Counselor (School)**
 - Mrs. Janette Tramuta
- **School Safety Team (School) -**
 - Principal, *Teacher(s) in the school*, School anti-bullying specialist (serves as chair), School Anti-bullying counselor, Parent(s) of a student in the school and other community members determined by the principal

Who are the School Safety Team Members?



- **Mrs. DiGiovanni, Principal**: Primary school official responsible for identifying, incidents of HIB in the school and decides on appropriate consequences for HIB incidents based on schools' code of conduct.
- **Mrs. Tramuta, Anti-Bullying Specialist/Counselor**: Conducts HIB investigation, assists the principal in appropriately applying the range of ways for responding to HIB established by the school board. Provides support for all students involved in an HIB incident.

Continue Safety Team Members



- **Principal**
- *Teacher(s) in the school*
- **School anti-bullying specialist (serves as chair)**
- **Parent(s) of a student in the school**
- **other community members determined by the principal**

School Safety Team



- Receives any HIB complaints reported to principal*
- Receives copies of any HIB investigation reports*
- Identifies and addresses patterns of HIB in the school*
- Reviews and strengthens school climate and policies in order to prevent and address HIB

**Parent team members may only participate in activities that do not compromise student confidentiality.*

School Safety Team Continued



- Educates the community (i.e., students, teachers, administrators, parents) to prevent and address HIB
- Participates in training (both required and requested)
- Collaborates with anti-bullying coordinator in data collection and development of policies to prevent and address HIB
- Other duties related to HIB requested by principal or anti-bullying coordinator

When and Where do We Step in?



- **School Property**
- **At any school-sponsored function**
- **On a school bus**
- **Off school grounds when it substantially interferes with the orderly operation of the school or the rights of other students**

Teacher/Witness Protocol



- **HIB incident must be verbally reported to principal immediately**
- **Parents are Contacted**
- **Investigation Commences**
- **Determination is of HIB is Made**
- **Counseling is offered to all of the students**

Student Reporting Procedures



- **Inform teacher, anti-bully specialist, or principal directly**
- **Place a note in a school “bully -box”**
- **Parent/Guardian can contact anti-bullying specialist**

Anti-Bullying Coordinator (District)



- **Coordinates and strengthens district HIB policy to prevent, identify, and address HIB collaborates with anti-bullying specialists, board of education and superintendent**
- **Meets at least twice a school year with the anti-bullying specialists and school safety team**
- **Provides data, in collaboration with the superintendent to the NJDOE**
- **Review data trends by school and by district for needs assessment**

Anti-Bullying Counselor (School)



- Provides counseling to students
- Facilitates social skills groups
- Provides resources to students, parents, teachers and principal

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Reporting Protocol for Incidents of HIB



- All incidents of HIB shall be reported verbally to the principal on the same day when the school employee witnesses or receives reliable information regarding a HIB incident
 - Principal must inform parents of all students involved in the alleged incident. The building principal may discuss the availability of counseling and other intervention services
 - The reporting of an incident of bullying does not preclude any consequences for behavior that warrants the punishment as indicated in the Code of Conduct or Board Policy

New: Investigation Procedures



- Initiated by the principal or designee within **1** school day of the verbal report
- Conducted by the anti-bullying specialist in consultation with the principal (and the principal may appoint additional personnel to assist with investigation)
- Investigation shall be completed as soon as possible, but **not later than 10 days from date of written report**
- If additional, anticipated information relevant to the investigation is not received within 10 days, anti-bullying specialist may amend original report to reflect the information

New: Results of Investigation



- Results shall be reported to the superintendent within 2 days of completing the investigation
 - Superintendent may decide to:
 - ✦ Provide intervention services
 - ✦ Establish training programs to reduce HIB and enhance school climate
 - ✦ Impose discipline
 - ✦ Order counseling
 - ✦ Take or recommend other appropriate action

New: Results of Investigation (cont.)



- Parents or guardians of the students who are parties to the investigation shall be entitled to receive information about the investigation within **five** days after the results of the investigation are reported to the board in accordance with Federal and State law and regulation including:
 - Nature of the investigation and whether evidence of HIB was found
 - Whether discipline was imposed or services provided
 - Provided in writing within 5 school days after results are reported to the BOE

New: Results of Investigation (cont.)



- Results reported to the board of education (BOE) no later than the date of the next board meeting following the completion of the investigation, along with information on action taken or recommended by superintendent
 - Twice a year, once each semester, the superintendent of schools shall report to the board of education, in a open meeting, all acts of violence, vandalism, and harassment, intimidation, or bullying which occurred during the previous reporting period. This information will be provided to the NJDOE. The NJDOE will issue a score to the district based on the number of reported incidents

New: Results of Investigation (cont.)



- A parent may request a hearing before the BOE Must be held within 10 days of request**
- BOE shall meet in executive session for the hearing**
 - BOE may hear from school anti-bullying specialist about the incident, recommendations for discipline or services, or programs instituted**

Bullying Prevention Programs



- **New Law: Schools and school districts must annually establish, implement, document, and assess these approaches**
- **The approaches must be designed to create school-wide conditions to prevent and address HIB**

Bullying Prevention Programs (cont.)



- ***New Law: Instruction and the “Week of Respect”***
- Each year the “Week of Respect” will begin on the first Monday in October
- School districts must observe the week by providing age-appropriate instruction focusing on preventing HIB
- Throughout the school year the school district must provide ongoing age-appropriate instruction on preventing HIB in accordance with the core curriculum content standards

Bullying Prevention Programs (cont.)



- ***Discussions with Students***
- Schools must develop a process for *discussing the district's HIB policy with students*
- *Assemblies take place during the month of September for the students – Kickoff Assembly will be held on Wednesday, September 21, 2016*

Public Reporting



- **NJ School Report Cards**
 - Adds to the School Report Card data –requires schools to report the number and nature of all reports of HIB
- **Superintendent to Board of Education**
 - The superintendent must report at *two public hearings* –
 - *The district must put a link to the report on its website

Parent Resources



- National PTA (Parent Teacher Association)

<http://www.pta.org/bullying.asp>

- Education.com

<http://www.education.com/topic/school-bullying-teasing>

No Bully

- <http://www.nobully.com/parents.htm>

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