

DASA - The Dignity for All Students Act

The Dignity Act (DASA) prohibits the harassment and discrimination of students by students and school personnel. The students have the right to be protected from intimidation, harassment, or discrimination based on actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, or religious practice, sex, gender/gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability, by employees or students on school property or at a school-sponsored event function or activity. The students have the responsibility to respect one another and treat others fairly in accordance with the District Code of Conduct and the provisions of the Dignity Act, to conduct them in a manner that fosters an environment that is free from intimidation, harassment, or discrimination, and to report any incidents of intimidation, harassment, or discrimination.

Bullying and hazing are forms of discrimination and harassment.

TYPES OF HARASSMENT BEHAVIORS

Physical:

- *Hitting, punching, tripping
- *Kicking, pushing, scratching
- *Damaging, stealing property

Social/Emotional/Relational:

- *Excluding or threatening to exclude
- *Spreading rumors, gossiping
- *Ostracizing, alienating
- *Using threatening looks or gestures
- *Extortion

The Dignity Act applies to behavior on school property (including athletic fields, playgrounds, and parking lots), in school buildings, on a school bus/vehicle, as well as at school-sponsored events or activities.

Verbal:

- *Name calling, teasing, taunting
- *Making offensive/discriminating remarks
- *Verbally threatening/intimidating

Cyberbullying:

- *Use of internet, cell phone, or other technology to harass and intimidate

The Dignity for All Students Act requires each Board of Education appoint district personnel to fill the role of Dignity Act Coordinators. In our district our Director of Student Support and Special Education is the designated DASA contact for handling bullying situations within the school district. It is the responsibility of the coordinator to make sure any harassment complaints regarding DASA are followed up on and handled properly. Our Director of Student Support and Special Education has been trained to recognize and respond effectively to harassment and bullying, and implement strategies to prevent it. Forms for reporting harassment cases can be found on the school website, www.ekcsk12.org. Parents and students may contact the Coordinator via phone at 315-562-8130.