



LACEY TOWNSHIP SCHOOL DISTRICT

A Tradition Of Pride · A Tradition Of Excellence

VANESSA P. CLARK, PH.D.
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

September 2019

Re: Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying

Dear Parent:

Welcome back to school. As you know, a priority for the Lacey Township School District is the prevention of harassment, intimidation, and bullying (often referred to as “HIB”). The Lacey Township Board of Education’s Policy 5512, *Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying and Cyber-Bullying*, strictly prohibits all active and passive forms of harassment, intimidation, and bullying, including cyber-bullying. Each staff member is familiar with reporting procedures as well as signs of HIB. Nevertheless, the education of our students regarding the recognition and prevention of HIB begins in the home. To that end, we ask that you speak with your children about expected behavior while in school and the importance of respect toward others, so that no student feels intimidated or harassed by peers.

You will find the integral components of the District’s HIB policy embedded in all student handbooks as well as on our website under the tab *Students & Families*. In addition to the Policy, you will also find helpful resources to assist you in understanding HIB, how and when it should be reported, and how to get help. An important concept to understand is the difference between conflict and bullying. A helpful explanation, provided by the New Jersey Department of Education is as follows:

Bullying vs. Conflict

Bullying is not a phase young people must endure or outgrow. Bullying is not a conflict between students or among groups of students. Conflict is a mutually competitive or opposing action or engagement, including a disagreement, an argument or a fight which is a normal part of human development. Bullying is one-sided, where one or more students are victims of one or more person’s aggression, which is intended to physically or emotionally hurt the victim(s).

If you suspect that your child might be bullied, talk with the teacher, guidance counselor, coach, or any school administrator. In addition to bullying and harassment that can take place in school or on a bus, it is important for you to know that the harassment/intimidation/bullying policy clearly and directly prohibits cyber-bullying and other forms of electronic communication that can be perceived as bullying, harassment, or intimidation.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. As always, if you should have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child’s school principal or any anti-bullying specialist listed on our website.

Sincerely,

Vanessa P. Clark, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools