

# The Dignity For All Students Act

## An Agent For School Climate Change

The Dignity Act was signed into law on September 13, 2010 and took effect on July 1, 2012. Amendments to the act are effective as of July 1, 2013.

The original legislation amended State Education Law by creating a new Article 2 – Dignity for All Students. The Dignity Act also amended Section 801-a of New York State Education Law regarding instruction in civility, citizenship, and character education by expanding the concepts of tolerance, respect for others and dignity to include: an awareness and sensitivity in the relations of people, including but not limited to, different races, weights, national origins, ethnic groups, religions, religious practices, mental or physical abilities, sexual orientations, gender identity, and sexes. The Dignity Act further amended Section 2801 of the Education Law by requiring Boards of Education to include language addressing The Dignity Act in their codes of conduct.

Additionally, under the Dignity Act, schools will be responsible for collecting and reporting data regarding material incidents of discrimination and harassment.

# Roslyn Middle School Dignity Act Coordinators

- The following individuals serve as the Dignity Act Coordinators for our school:
- Ms. Sheehan- Assistant Principal-Grade 7
- Mr. Roth- Assistant Principal-Grade 6/8
- Mr. Johanson- Principal-Grade 6-8

# What is expected?

- Civility
- Citizenship
- Character
- Honesty
- Tolerance
- Responsibility
- Respect

# The Eleven Named Protected Classes

## Sensitivity to Issues of Diversity

- Race (Actual or Perceived)
- Color
- Weight (Size)
- National Origin
- Ethnic Group
- Religion
- Religious Practice
- Disability
- Sexual Orientation
- Gender Identity
- Sex

# Our Role...Our Procedures

## MILD-MODERATE-SEVERE

- **Mild Incident or First Time Report**

Examples may include name calling, exclusion or rumor spreading-

Possible Consequences may include verbal warning, reprimand, parent notification, apology, counseling.

- **Moderate Incident or Second Report**

Examples may include physical confrontation, repeat offense(s), threats or theft-

Possible Consequences-parent notification of detention, in school or out of school suspension, counseling.

- **Severe Incident or Third Report**

The individual poses a threat to self or other school constituents-

Possible Consequences-parent notification of alternative school assignment, homebound instruction or law enforcement referral.

# Cyberbullying

Schools may address cyberbullying that takes place on campus:

- through the district's internet system or
- through personal cell phones, cameras, personal computers and PDAs.

Schools may address cyberbullying that takes place off campus such as:

- speech through technology which causes or threatens to cause disruption in school or interference with the rights of students or adults.
- speech through technology which causes emotional harm or danger to the victim or others.



*Be Aware*  
*Be a Voice*  
*Be the Change*