Dignity Act Intent

The goal of the Dignity Act is to create a safe and supportive school climate where students can learn and focus, rather than fear being discriminated against and/or verbally and/or physically harassed.

All public elementary and secondary school students have the right to attend school in a safe, welcoming, considerate, and caring environment.
Dignity For All Students Act Overview

The Dignity Act takes effect on July 1, 2012

- The New York State Dignity For All Students Act (Dignity Act) was signed into law on September 13, 2010. This legislation amended State Education Law by creating a new Article 2 - Dignity For All Students.

- The Dignity Act states that **NO** student shall be subjected to harassment or discrimination by employees or students on school property or at a school function based on their actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender, or sex.

- The Dignity Act 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.

- The Dignity Act also amended Section 2801 of the Education Law, instructing Boards of Education to include language in the codes of conduct to comply with the Dignity Act.

### Highlights

**Q:** Who is protected by the Dignity Act?

**A:** All public elementary and secondary school students are protected by the Dignity Act.

**Q:** What does the Dignity Act prohibit?

**A:** The Dignity Act prohibits the harassment and discrimination of students by students and by school personnel.

**Q:** How does the Dignity Act relate to bullying and hazing?

**A:** Bullying and hazing are forms of harassment and discrimination.

**Q:** What physical spaces are covered by the Dignity Act?

**A:** 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.

**Q:** How does the Dignity Act relate to the school's Code of Conduct?

**A:** The Code of Conduct must be amended to reflect the prohibition of discrimination and harassment of students by students or staff - in age appropriate plain language.

### To view our Code of Conduct visit: www.barkercsd.net

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