



Medford Township Public Schools

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To Parents/Guardians:

Beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, our district has conscientiously implemented the requirements established in the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act. We continue to address and improve our response to harassment, intimidation, and bullying.

Each school is required to complete a self-assessment covering eight areas concerning our efforts in training, providing programs and instruction, as well as conducting investigations. As you will see on the report that follows, each school, and our district as a whole, continues to excel. This success can be attributed to a number of factors. Even prior to the enactment of the legislation, the Medford Township School District had programs embedded in our curriculum that incorporates a structured approach to teaching social and emotional learning skills, which is key in HIB prevention. Our school counselors, who serve as the Anti-Bullying Specialist in their respective school, develop and implement many school-wide activities to highlight the importance of consideration of the feelings of self and others during Week of Respect in October, as well as throughout the year. Classroom lessons by our school counselors emphasize ways in which our students can learn to advocate for themselves so they do not fall victim to others, as well as teaching students how to speak up when they see someone else being bullied. They regularly meet with small groups to provide counseling on a number of topics.

Each incident, whether a violation of the HIB policy or not, is addressed in a way that is designed to prevent future occurrences. Our students have demonstrated the ability to advocate for themselves when they feel targeted by another student, as well as standing up and reporting when this type of behavior is directed at others. While discipline may be one intervention to address HIB behavior, other strategies, such as counseling, are employed. We have found that once an incident is addressed, a repeat of the bullying behavior by the same individual rarely occurs.

For the Medford School District, addressing HIB is an ongoing process. During the upcoming year, we will be focusing on addressing the inappropriate use of technology. We continue to work towards and seek your involvement to insure that the climate and culture at each school is one in which all students feel confident and emotionally safe in their educational setting.

Sincerely,

Gale Ferraro, Ed. D.
District Anti-Bullying Coordinator