



WESTAMPTON TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS
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REPORT:

**Self-assessment for Determining School and District Grades
under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act**

In spring of 2013, the Westampton Township Public Schools participated in a mandatory self-assessment for determining school and district grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act (HIB). Our self-assessment was Board of Education approved on July 23, 2013, and was submitted to the New Jersey Department of Education (NJ DOE). On March 4, 2014, the NJ DOE has created District and School Grade Reports of the district-reported ratings for each core element for each school and for the school district:

Holly Hills Elementary School: 59/75

Westampton Middle School: 57/75

Westampton School District: 58/75

The self-reflection grades give our impression of how we have implemented the eight core elements (identified immediately below) which address all of the HIB requirements for schools.

Core Elements:

- 1: HIB Programs, Approaches or Other Initiatives - N.J.S.A. 18A:37-17a
- 2: Training on the BOE-approved HIB Policy - N.J.S.A. 18A:37-17b and c
- 3: Other Staff Instruction and Training Programs - N.J.S.A. 18A:6-112, N.J.S.A. 18A:37-22d, N.J.S.A. 18A:37-26a
- 4: Curriculum and Instruction on HIB and Related Information and Skills - N.J.S.A. 18A:37-29
- 5: HIB Personnel - N.J.S.A. 18A:37-20a, N.J.S.A. 18A:37-20c, N.J.S.A. 18A:37-21a

6: School-Level HIB Incident Reporting Procedure - N.J.S.A. 18A:37-15b(5), N.J.S.A. 18A: 37-15b(6)(a)

7: HIB Investigation Procedure - N.J.S.A. 18A:37-15b(5) and (6)(a) and (b)

8: HIB Reporting - N.J.S.A. 18A:17-46

An extensive rating rubric was utilized to rank implementation criteria for each of the rating categories. We self-assigned ratings based on the criteria and required documentation.

The following data was taken into consideration and utilized to verify the status of the indicators under each of the core elements:

Data Sources:

Data submitted by schools in each of the following data collection systems:

Electronic Violence and Vandalism Reporting System,

Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying – Investigations, Trainings and Programs System, and

County District School System;

The findings from monitoring under the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC);

The findings from investigations of complaints of noncompliance conducted by the NJDOE’s county offices of education or the Office of Fiscal Accountability and Compliance; and

Other sources of information (e.g., student conduct referrals and dispositions, student and staff attendance, student suspensions, school climate surveys, at-risk student behavior surveys).

Each core element then received a score based on the sum of the ratings for all indicators within a core element. The grade received by the school and the school district is posted for reference on the homepage of the school’s website:

<http://www.westamptonschools.org>

The school and school district grades were reviewed with the BOE at our public meeting on March 10, 2014, in order to provide the BOE and the public with the opportunity to learn about the district’s implementation of the ABR and address any concerns. The report has also prompted the following reflections and strategic improvements:

Reflections and Strategic Improvements:

Beginning with the September 2011-12 school year, our school district conscientiously implemented the requirements found in the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act by implementing and adhering to updated State Code, and revised District Policy.

During the first two years of implementation of the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act, our school district made progress in addressing and improving harassment, intimidation and bullying (HIB) and the school climate and culture by disseminating information about bullying prevention, establishing procedures and timelines to report HIB, and continuing to take a strong stand about a respectful learning environment in our schools.

While completing the Self-Assessment, we learned that our school district has demonstrated strengths in our HIB investigative procedures, observance of the ‘Week of Respect,’ disseminating information on the prevention of harassment, intimidation and bullying to students and to school staff, and compilation of reports, including reports to the superintendent and reporting to the Board of Education. We adhered successfully to notification procedures and timelines in our anti-bullying cases.

The Self-Assessment helped our school district to identify areas for improvement including additional collaboration with the Anti-Bullying Specialist and Anti-Bullying Coordinators, increasing our repertoire of approaches to handle bullying situations, enhancing our character education curriculum, and creating a user-friendly guide for parents/guardians. (Kindly refer to the WTPS HIB Handbook posted on our school websites.)

Our school district will continually work to encourage trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring and citizenship.

This information will become a part of our annual review of HIB prevention programs, approaches and other initiatives, as required in N.J.S.A. 18A:37-17a, and the annual review of the BOE’s HIB policy, as required in N.J.S.A. 18A:37-15c.