

Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying

The Lafayette Pershing School has implemented a very successful **Home-Grown Character Education Program** using a color-coded clip chart that monitors student's behaviors throughout the day, week, month, and year. Students that demonstrate positive behavior earn monthly, trimester, and yearly incentive awards. As part of this program, students are learning the fundamentals of social and emotional learning, pro-social behavior, and self-regulation skills. We hope our students will embrace positive behaviors and not engage in harassment, intimidation and bullying (HIB).

Penns Grove-Carneys Point Board of Education has adopted policy #5131 as a means to address HIB behaviors as outlined in the New Jersey Anti-Bullying Bill or Rights Act. If you would like to read the entire law you may access it here: www.njleg.state.nj.us/2010/Bills/PL10/122_.PDF. The following is a portion of policy 5131:

Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying

The Board of Education prohibits acts of harassment, intimidation or bullying of students, employees, visitors, and volunteers.

A safe and civil environment in school is necessary for pupils to learn and achieve. High academic standards; harassment, intimidation or bullying, like other disruptive or violent behaviors, is conduct that disrupts both a pupil's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate its pupils in a safe environment; and since pupils learn by example, school administrators, faculty, staff and volunteers should be commended for demonstrating appropriate behavior, treating others with civility and respect, and refusing to tolerate harassment, intimidation or bullying. For the purposes of this policy, "harassment, intimidation or bullying" means any gesture or written, verbal or physical act or any use of an electronic communication device directed at a student that takes place on or off school grounds, at any school-sponsored function, or on a school bus as provided for in section 16 of P.L.2010, c.122 (C.18A:37-15.3) that:

- A. Targets a student and which may affect his/her educational program;*
- B. Substantially disrupts, infringes or interferes with the orderly operation of the school or the rights of other students;*
- C. Creates a hostile educational environment for a student(s) by infringing and/or interfering with a student(s)' education;*
- D. Severely or pervasively causes physical or emotional harm to a student(s);*
- E. Is motivated by any actual or perceived characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or a mental, physical or sensory disability; or,*
- F. By any other distinguishing characteristic; and*
- G. A reasonable person should know, under the circumstances, that the act(s) will have the effect of harming a pupil or damaging the pupil's property, or placing a pupil in reasonable fear of harm to his person or damage to his property; or*
- H. Has the effect of insulting or demeaning any pupil or group of pupils in such a way as to cause substantial disruption in, or substantial interference with, the orderly operation of the school.*

If you would like to read the entire policy, you may access it on our district website: www.pgcpsschools.org . At the bottom left of the home page you will see "Bullying Policy" in red. Click on that and you will be directed to policy #5131.