

Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying, HIB

Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act (ABR)

Overview

NJ defines "Harassment, intimidation or bullying" as any gesture, any written, verbal or physical act, or any electronic communication, whether it be a single incident or a series of incidents, that is reasonably perceived as being motivated either by any actual or perceived characteristic.

Characteristics/Where

Any race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or a mental, physical or sensory disability, or by any other distinguishing characteristic.

Takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function, on a school bus, or off school grounds.



What Qualifies as HIB?

Has the effect of insulting or demeaning any student or group of students.

Creates a hostile educational environment for the student by interfering with a student's education or by severely or pervasively causing physical or emotional harm to the student.

How to Report Incidents

Step 1- Find your local school district's HIB information

- Visit your specific school district's website and look for a section titled "Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying," "Anti-Bullying," or "HIB".
- This page should list the District Anti-Bullying Coordinator and their contact information, as well as the Anti-Bullying Specialists at each school.

Step 2- Use the HIB reporting forms

- Use the district's online form: Many districts have an online reporting tool, which is often the fastest way to submit a report.
- Use the state-mandated HIB 338 Form: Download the NJ state HIB 338 form. This form can be submitted in person or by mail to the school principal or the district office.
- Submit a written report: New Jersey law allows for verbal or written reports, so you can also send a written statement to the principal.

Step 3: Contact the appropriate coordinator or official

- District Anti-Bullying Coordinator: This is the main point of contact for the entire school district.
- School Anti-Bullying Specialist: Each school should have a designated specialist who can also help you understand the process.
- Principal: The principal is responsible for ensuring an investigation is conducted and parents are notified.
- State Coordinator: If you have questions or concerns not addressed by your local district, you can contact the NJ Department of Education's School Climate State Coordinator at HIb@doe.nj.gov.

Remember



1. Report in writing: While verbal reports are accepted, a written report is the most effective way to create a record of the incident.
2. Be specific: Include details such as the date, time, location, and individuals involved.
3. Keep a copy: Keep a copy of all correspondence for your own records.