

Annual Report: District and School Grade Report

Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights - School Self-Assessment

2014 Report Reflection

Public Review of the Grades — School district officials are required to review the district and school grades with the board of education (BOE) at a public meeting. This will provide the BOE and the public with the opportunity to learn about the district's implementation of the ABR and address any concerns. This information can assist in the 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.

After the first two years of implementation, the New Jersey Department of Education asked school districts to complete a self-assessment to assist in determining their status in complying with the *Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act (ABR)*.

Beginning with the September 2011-2012 school year, Avon School has conscientiously implemented the requirements found in the *Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act* by establishing, implementing, and assessing HIB programs, approaches, and initiatives that are designed to create school-wide conditions to prevent and address HIB while enhancing our overall learning community culture.

Each school was asked to examine the degree of compliance in eight categories in order to determine their areas of strength and areas in need of further growth. The schools were required to have the necessary documentation to substantiate their scores. Throughout the self-assessment, school safety team members examined initiatives aimed at addressing anti-bullying and the improvement of school climates, school cultures and other conditions that negatively affect student learning and growth.

The Self Assessment Score Spreadsheet posted to our District Performance page reflects Avon School's scores. During the Safety Team's review, each category was honestly examined through the lens of how we can improve our programs each year. For our first self-assessment, our district demonstrated 57 out of a possible 75 points. We are excited to reevaluate based on the program adjustments initiated this year, and look forward to improving the program in years to follow.

Specific actions steps include:

- providing ongoing age-appropriate instruction on preventing HIB in accordance with the Core Content Curriculum Standards
- observing the Week of Respect by recognizing the importance of character education and providing age-appropriate instruction focusing on HIB prevention,
- appointing a school Anti-Bullying Specialist who met regularly with administration and facilitated School Safety Team meetings twice yearly to identify patterns of HIB and review school climate and school policies for the prevention of HIB,
- providing training on HIB policy and prevention, discussing HIB policy with students, providing in-service training for the ABS, SST and School Leaders,
- implementing the district's procedure for reporting HIB and new information on a prior HIB report, following the BOE approved policy on HIB investigation procedures including a procedure for ensuring that staff member reports include the required information for all incidents of violence, vandalism and HIB, notification to parents of alleged offenders and alleged victims, timely completion of the investigation, preparation of the report and sharing of results with the CSA.

While completing the Self-Assessment, we learned that our school district/school has demonstrated strengths in these areas: HIB reporting, investigation and follow-through, establishing and implementing HIB programs, approaches and initiatives that are designed to create school-wide conditions to prevent and address HIB, providing ongoing age-appropriate instruction on preventing HIB in accordance with the Core Content Curriculum Standards, and observing the Week of Respect.

The Self-Assessment helped our school district/school to identify areas for improvement in the following areas: providing training on HIB policy and prevention for all school employees, contracted service providers and volunteers and providing instruction in suicide prevention including information on HIB for each staff member.