

TST BOCES DIGNITY ACT COORDINATORS

Dr. Jeffrey Matteson

District Superintendent TST BOCES
TST BOCES District Dignity Act Coordinator
jmatteson@tstboces.org
(607) 257-1551 x1001

Cheryl Button

Exceptional Education
cbutton@tstboces.org
(607) 257-1551 x5004

Mary Meeker

Exceptional Education
mmeeker@tstboces.org
(607) 257-1551 x5008 or 5006

Maxine Parker

Regional Alternative School
mparker@tstboces.org
(607) 257-1551 x2501

Jeff Podolak

Career & Technical Education
jpodolak@tstboces.org
(607) 257-1551 x2003

Jennifer Astles-Steinmetz

Regional Dignity Act Coordinator
jastles@tstboces.org
(607) 257-1551 x1015

**TST BOCES is committed
to creating a caring and
safe learning environment for
all students.**



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555 Warren Road
Ithaca, NY 14850



D A S A

**The Dignity for All
Students Act**

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DIGNITY

The goal of the Dignity Act is to create a safe and supportive school climate where students can learn and focus, rather than fear being discriminated against, intimidated, taunted, harassed or bullied.

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The Dignity Act came into effect on July 1, 2012 and states:

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“The Dignity Act prohibits acts of harassment and bullying, including cyberbullying and/or discrimination, by employees or students on school property or at a school function, including but not limited to such conduct those based on a student’s actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender (defined to include gender identity and expression), or sex.”

Education Law 11[8]

What You Need To Know:

Under The Dignity Act, **ALL students** are protected from discrimination/bullying by other students and school personnel while:

- On school property (school buildings, athletic fields, playgrounds, parking lots, etc.)
- On a school bus/vehicle
- At any school-sponsored event or activity (field trip, athletic event, etc.)

In 2013, The Dignity Act expanded to include **cyberbullying** (defined as “**any harassment or bullying that occurs through any form of electronic communication.**”)

Schools are required to respond to cyberbullying that:

- Happens on school property or at a school function
- Happens off school property but creates a substantial disruption to the learning environment **or** when the threats, intimidation, or abuse impact (or could impact) the school environment

Who Can Make a Report?

Any person who experiences, witnesses, or is told about bullying/discrimination can make a report. Including:

- Students
- Parents/Caregivers
- Community Members

*Note: School employees are required to report any bullying/discrimination they witness or are told about.

How Do I Make a Report?

You can make a report by filling out the **Dignity Act Reporting Form** available on the TST BOCES website (www.tstboces.org) and in all TST BOCES programs, or by telling a Dignity Act Coordinator (information located on the back of this brochure) or TST BOCES staff member.

What Happens After I Make a Report?

The report will be shared with the appropriate Dignity Act Coordinator who will promptly and thoroughly investigate the matter, and take actions to stop the bullying/harassment from continuing.