

Afton Central School District
Dignity for All Students Act (DASA)
Plain Language Code of Conduct Summary

In accordance with the mission and vision, adopted by the Afton Central School Board of Education and the Dignity for All Students Act, effective July 1, 2012, the Afton Central School District Board of Education believes that safe, nurturing, and well-managed learning environments allow students to achieve their full potential in school and in life. A well-managed learning environment is one that includes student instruction in civility, citizenship, and character education; one that raises staff awareness of the individual and diverse needs of the student population; and one that trains school staff to respond sensitively and consistently to all incidents of discrimination, harassment, and bullying/cyber-bullying that may result from perceived differences. Otherwise, the failure to respond to acts of discrimination, harassment, cyber-bullying and bullying may interfere with the student's ability to learn and with the school district's ability to educate the students. In order for each student to reach their full academic potential, Afton Central School District is committed to creating and providing a positive school climate that is free from discrimination, harassment, and bullying/cyber-bullying.

School District Responsibilities:

The Afton Central School District prohibits all forms of discrimination and harassment by school employees or other students based on actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic affiliation, religion or religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, or gender on school property and at school sponsored functions and activities that take place off school property. This is not an exhaustive list. For example, students with acne or short stature, who are subjected to discrimination, harassment/bullying/cyber-bullying, are also covered by the Dignity Act effective this school year.

The Afton Central School District Administrators will investigate every reported incident of discrimination and harassment that occurs on school property or at school sponsored events. Incidents may be reported to a building administrator or the Dignity Act Coordinator by students, parents, school employees, or concerned community members. The building administrator and/or the Dignity Act Coordinator will interview the alleged targets of discrimination, harassment, or bullying/cyber-bullying, the witnesses, and other relevant individuals. Disciplinary consequences will be assigned as outlined in the student code of conduct for those who have been determined to be in violation of the Code of Conduct/Dignity for All Students Act and safety measures will be provided to the target of such discrimination, harassment, or bullying/cyber-bullying as outlined in Afton Central School District's Code of Conduct.

Student Rights:

The Afton Central School District is committed to safeguarding the rights given to all students under federal and state law and district policy. In addition, to promote a safe, healthy, orderly, supportive school environment, all students have the right to:

1. Students have the right to take part in all district activities on an equal basis regardless of actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic affiliation, religion or religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, or gender.
2. Students have the right to be protected from harassment/bullying/cyber-bullying and discrimination based on actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic affiliation, religion or religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, or gender.
 - This is not an exhaustive list. Afton Central School District may add to the list of protected classes based on their own regional or specialized needs (for example, students of incarcerated parents).

Student Responsibilities:

1. Students have the responsibility to work with school staff and their peers to promote a safe school environment that is free from bullying, harassment, and discrimination.
2. Students are expected to treat one another fairly, civilly, and with dignity as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct, the AFTON WAY/AFTON ROCKS, and the Dignity for All Students Act.
3. Students are expected to report incidents of discrimination, harassment, and bullying/cyber-bullying of students on school property/school district sponsored functions by any student and/or school employee that they see, experience, or hear about as soon as reasonably possible to their teacher, building administrator and/or the Dignity Act Coordinator.. The suggested reporting order is to the teacher first, the Dignity Act Coordinator second, and lastly to a school administrator. Students may also use the digital form located on the Afton Central School District website to report incidents of discrimination, harassment, and bullying/cyber-bullying.

Parent/Caregiver Responsibilities:

1. Parents /Caregivers have the responsibility to teach their children respect and dignity for all people regardless of actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic affiliation, religion or religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, or gender.
2. Parents/Caregivers are expected to report incidents of discrimination, harassment, and bullying/cyber-bullying of students on school property/school district sponsored functions by any student and/or school employee that they see, experience, or hear about, as soon as reasonably possible to their child's teacher, building administrator and/or the Dignity Act Coordinator. Parents/Caregivers may also use the digital form located on Afton Central School District website to report incidents of discrimination, and harassment/bullying/cyber-bullying.

Dignity Act Coordinator:

According to the Dignity for All Students Act, at least one school member, the Dignity Act Coordinator, is required to be trained in human relations regarding race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic affiliation, religion or religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, and gender. The Dignity Act Coordinator will be accessible to all students, parents/caregivers, and staff for consultation regarding the expectations of the Dignity for All Students Act.

The Dignity Act Coordinator for the Afton Central School District is David Puglisi. He may be contacted by phone at 607-639-8200 or by email at dpuglisi@aftoncsd.org .

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