

**Resolution on DASA and Incidents of Discrimination, Harassment, and/or Cyberbullying**

Introduced by:

Hon. Lawrence Scott, Vice President of Student Achievement, Member-at-Large

Co-sponsored by:

Hon. Sharon Belton-Cottman, President, Ferry District Member; Hon. Dr. Kathy Evans-Brown, Vice President of Executive Affairs, East District Member; Hon. Terrance Heard, Member-at-Large; Hon. Cindi McEachon, North District Member; Hon. Jennifer Mecozzi, West District Member; Hon. Dr. Ann Rivera, Member-at-Large, Hon. Theresa Schuta, Park District Member Hon. Paulette Woods, Central District Member

August 16, 2023

Whereas, DASA (Dignity for All Students Act) went into effect in the summer of 2012, with supplemental provisions on cyberbullying going into effect in the summer of 2013, requiring districts to:

1. Report incidents of harassment, bullying, and discrimination,
2. Provide training on these incidents to staff,
3. Provide instruction to students to prevent these incidents,
4. Include prohibition of these incidents in the Code of Conduct, and,
5. Identify Dignity Act Coordinators for each school which are made publicly available to students, staff, and persons in parental relation,

Whereas, on August 9, 2023, NYS Attorney General Letitia James and NYS Education Department Commissioner Betty A. Rosa issued guidance to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in public schools and remind public schools of their obligation to uphold DASA;

Whereas, according to NYS State of Education Department, excluding New York City and cyberbullying, New York State has seen a marked decline in harassment/bullying incidents, since 2012-13;

Therefore, Be It Resolved, the Buffalo Board of Education (BOE) requests that the Buffalo City School District provide the BOE with the following in a work session by October of 2023:

1. The district process for training staff on DASA,
2. The reporting and resolution process of harassment/bullying incidents under DASA, within each school and with appropriate district departments and staff, and,
3. The rate of harassment/bullying incidents under DASA district-wide and aggregated by school over the past five school years, and,

Further, Be It Resolved, the Buffalo BOE requests that the Buffalo City School District establish a process to publicly identify the Dignity Act Coordinator for the district and for each school to students, staff, and persons in parental relation.