Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act/OCR Resolution Agreement

SOMSD
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
APRIL 27, 2015

Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying (HIB)
THE VENN DIAGRAM

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LAWS: Anti-Discrimination, HIB, FERPA
Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying means:

- Any gesture, written, verbal or physical act or any electronic communication
- Single incident or a series of incidents
- Reasonably perceived as being motivated
- Either by an actual or perceived characteristic
  - Such as 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

That substantially

Disrupts or interferes with the orderly operation of the school or the rights of other students

And that a reasonable person should know
  ▪ Will have the effect of physically or emotionally harming a student or damaging the student’s property, or

*Bullets are not in the law. The definitional statute is broken down into parts to facilitate ease in understanding. Emphasis added and some language deleted.*
Definition of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying from the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act N.J.S.A. 18A:37-14

- Or placing a student in reasonable fear of physical or emotional harm to his person or damage to his property
- Has the effect of insulting or demeaning any group of students
- In a way to cause disruption in or interference with the orderly operation of the school
- Or 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
Major Requirement for Reporting HIB

COURAGE IS NOT THE ABSENCE OF FEAR. IT IS THE ABILITY TO ACT IN THE PRESENCE OF FEAR.
Sage Educational Consultants, LLC ("Sage") has been preparing its report to the Board based upon the following activities:

During the months of March and April, Sage has met numerous times with the administrative teams of Columbia High School, Maplewood Middle School and South Orange Middle School to discuss issues relevant to the Resolution Agreement;

- Sage has also met with teachers and students of Columbia High School, Maplewood Middle School and South Orange Middle School to discuss issues relevant to the Resolution Agreement;

4/27/2015
Sage has been studying data relevant to the Resolution Agreement provided by District schools and our Chief Information Officer, Paul Roth;

On April 16, 2015, Sage and the District facilitated a community forum during which time Sage solicited feedback from the community regarding issues relevant to the Resolution Agreement;

Sage will be providing initial feedback to the Board in May, 2015, based upon its data analysis and educational community outreach efforts in March and April, 2015;
The Board is concurrently working with the complainants in the ACLU OCR complaint on issues related to restorative justice and alternatives to standard disciplinary procedures that disproportionately impact students of color.
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LAWS: REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR CHILD ABUSE

4/27/2015 Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act