

**SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE AND MAPLEWOOD, NJ
PUBLIC BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 26, 2024**

RESOLUTION 4669

FOR ACTION

**SUBJECT DELEGATE ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION FOR NEW JERSEY
ANTI-BULLYING BILL OF RIGHTS ACT TO FUND DISTRICTS**

WHEREAS, The New Jersey Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act (ABR), also known as P.L. 2010, Chapter 122, was established by the New Jersey legislature in 2011 to combat bullying in public schools throughout the state. The ABR was amended on March 26, 2012, in part, to include provisions for funding of certain activities required under the bill. Compliance with the ABR is required by state law. ABR Funding has not been provided by the state of New Jersey to districts since the 2013-2014 school year. The 2023 New Jersey Anti-Bullying Task Force (ABTF) report confirmed incidents of HIBs and bias, including cyberbullying and hate speech, are at the highest levels the state has seen since it started collecting data in 2018. As such, the ABTF has requested \$5 million in ABR funding from the state of New Jersey to support Districts' anti-bullying efforts statewide.

WHEREAS, The South Orange Maplewood Board of Education School District supports the New Jersey Anti-Bullying Task Force's request for the state of New Jersey to provide \$5 million in funding for the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act to support all schools' anti-bullying efforts statewide.

WHEREAS, The Delegate Assembly is the official policy-making body of the New Jersey School Boards Association; and

WHEREAS, Education-related policies resulting from prior Delegate Assembly and Board of Directors actions are codified in the NJSBA's *Manual of Positions and Policies on Education*; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the South Orange-Maplewood Board of Education proposes the following additional language from the District's Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act Funds Request Resolution for adoption by the Delegate Assembly and inclusion in NJSBA's *Manual of Positions and Policies on Education*:

The **NJSBA** supports the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights and the New Jersey Anti-Bullying Task Force's request for state funding to help Districts offset the costs of mandated compliance activities.

BE IT RESOLVED, that this resolution be placed on the agenda for consideration at the December 7, 2024 Delegate Assembly.