**DIGNITY FOR ALL STUDENTS ACT (DASA)**

**OVERVIEW**

The **Dignity Act** was signed into law on September 13, 2010 and became effective on July l, 2012.

This legislation protects all public-school students, in New York State, from harassment or discrimination, by other **students or adults**, on school property, or at a school function, based upon 11 protected classes: race, color, weight, national origin, ethnicity, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender or sex.

**KEY TERMS**

**Harassment/Bullying** is the creation of a hostile environment by conduct, threats, intimidation, or abuse that would have the effect of unreasonably and substantially interfering with a student’s academic performance, their mental/emotional/physical well-being or cause a student to fear for his/her safety.

**Discrimination** is the denial of equal treatment and/or access to programs and facilities based upon the 11 protected classes listed above.

**Cyberbullying** is defined as any harassment or bullying which takes place through any form of electronic communication.

**If you suspect your child is a victim of harassment/bullying, discrimination or cyberbullying, please contact:**

**Rebecca Tantillo, DASA Coordinator, 716-286-4193**.