



October 2017

Students and Staff Rights

- Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972
- Dignity for All Students Act (DASA)

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**Dr. Edwin M. Quezada**  
Superintendent of Schools

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Sexual harassment and discrimination by reason of one's sex have no place in the Yonkers Public Schools, and will not be tolerated. Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 is the federal statute that prohibits discrimination against students or staff on the basis of sex and sexual harassment in educational programs and activities.

In accordance with the law, the Yonkers Public Schools has a designated Title IX Coordinator and has set forth a Title IX grievance procedure, so that complaints of sexual harassment and discrimination can be addressed in accordance with the provisions of the law. Each school building, as well as Central Office, has the Title IX coordinator's contact information, the grievance procedure and the complaint form, readily available to students, parents and employees. The information is also available on the District's website – [www.yonkerspublicschools.org/titleix](http://www.yonkerspublicschools.org/titleix).

The United States Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights, mandates school districts take any necessary steps to notify students that they have a way to voice complaints about sexual harassment or discrimination. In the upcoming months, during assemblies or during other time periods where groups of students are gathered for informational purposes, each building administration will be presenting age appropriate information about Title IX, the name of the coordinator, and the existence and availability of the grievance procedure. It is important for all students to be made aware of their rights to complain to the District about improper conduct that might be occurring in the schools.

In addition, parents and students should be aware of their rights under the Dignity for All Students Act. Enacted in 2012, DASA prohibits all forms of harassment against students, as well as discrimination against students based on race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender or sex. The District considers bullying and harassment as seriously as it considers claims of sexual harassment.

Pursuant to DASA, each school building in the Yonkers Public Schools has at least one duly designated DASA Coordinator/Liaison, whose name(s) is publicly posted in each school building and available on the District's website. The DASA Liaisons' responsibilities include accepting reports of bullying, discrimination, or harassment; and investigating reported incidents in an effort to ensure that all students are provided with a safe, supportive, and positive school climate. Students or parents with complaints of bullying, discrimination or harassment are encouraged to speak to the DASA Coordinator in their respective building and/or to file the DASA complaint form, *Report Incidents of Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying*. The information and the form are also available on District's website - [www.yonkerspublicschools.org/dasa](http://www.yonkerspublicschools.org/dasa).

If you have any questions or concerns about any of this information, please contact your child's principal.

Sincerely,



Dr. Edwin M. Quezada