



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
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Received
AUG 19 2013

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor
KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

CHRISTOPHER D. CERF
Commissioner

August 15, 2013

The Honorable Diane B. Allen
Senator, 7th District
504 Route 130 N.
Cinnaminson, NJ 08077

The Honorable Barbara Buono
Senator, 18th District
Two Lincoln Highway
Edison, NJ 08820

The Honorable Valerie Vanieri Huttie
Assemblywoman, 37th District
One Engle Street
Englewood, NJ 07631

Dear Senators Allen and Buono and Assemblywoman Huttie:

I am responding to your letter regarding the proposed changes to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.7(a)2, which lists the minimum content of each school district board of education's harassment, intimidation and bullying (HIB) policy. Your specific concern is with the proposed deletion of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.7(a)2ix(1).


The proposed changes to N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.7(a)2ix(1) were intended to improve the administrative code by ensuring that it is in line with the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights (ABR) and remain subject to the anticipated recommendations of the Anti-Bullying Task Force.

With respect to the proposed deletion of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.7(a)2ix(1), please understand that the Department never intended to limit a school district's range of ways to respond to an incident of harassment, intimidation or bullying.

For years before and since the adoption of the ABR, the department's actions have clearly demonstrated strong advocacy for safe and supportive schools for all students, including the prevention of and intervention in incidents of HIB. As such, we will withdraw the proposed deletion of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-7.7(a)2ix(1) thereby returning the code back to its original language for the State Board's consideration at adoption level.

Thank you for your correspondence.

Sincerely,


Christopher D. Cerf
Commissioner

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c: William Haldeman
Susana Guerrero
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