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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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Guidance for School District and School Grades Determined under the *Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act (ABR) (P.L.2010, c.122)* (Attachment to March 4, 2014 Memo)

Accessing the School and District Grades

To access the *District and School Grade Report*, the district homeroom administrator (formerly called district web user administrator) needs to open a district-level user account(s) for this project or authorize a new account to an existing district-level user (i.e., EVVRS, HIB-ITP) by using the homeroom administration application on the NJDOE homeroom page at <http://homeroom.state.nj.us>.

District-level users assigned to this project may visit the NJDOE Homeroom page, click on the link for HIB Grades Report and log in to view the document titled *District and School Grade Report* in PDF format. The report lists the grade for each school in the district and the grade for the school district.

Interpreting, Publicizing, and Public Review of the Grades

Interpreting — Under the Commissioner's Program, the school grade is a raw score of data and the sum of the ratings for all indicators within each core element on the School Self-Assessment (e.g., 65 of 75 points). The maximum total score for a school is 75 points. The school district's grade is an average of the total scores of all schools in the school district. **The department issued grade is not represented as a letter grade.**

The Department is not issuing any associated value or ranking for the raw and average scores. The raw and average scores reflect the school and school district's degree of compliance with the *Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act (ABR)*, as determined primarily through each school's self-assessment of its implementation of the ABR.

Publicizing — School districts and schools **must** post the exact grade reports issued by the NJDOE without making any alterations to the PDF document to fulfill its responsibilities for posting the grades to the school district and school's websites. To do this, the District and School Grade PDF document must be saved on a local computer for the district. **When publicizing the school district or school grades determined under the ABR, districts and schools should not assign letter grades.** The score for each core element must be reported as a number (e.g., 12 of 15 points for Core Element #1, 5 of 9 points for Core Element #2, etc.) and the grade must be reported as a number (e.g., the grade is 65 out of 75 points).

Public Review of the Grades — School district officials are required to review the district and school grades with the board of education (BOE) at a public meeting. This will provide the BOE and the public with the opportunity to learn about the district's implementation of the ABR and address any concerns. This information can assist in the annual review of HIB prevention programs, approaches and other initiatives, as required in *N.J.S.A. 18A:37-17a*, and the annual review of the BOE's HIB policy, as required in *N.J.S.A. 18A:37-15c*.

When posting the grades or reporting to the BOE, district and school staff also might want to consider including the following points or language:

- “Beginning with the September 2011-2012 school year, our school district/school has conscientiously implemented the requirements found in the *Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act* by _____.”
- “During the first two years of implementation of the *Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act*, our school district/school has made progress in addressing and improving harassment, intimidation and bullying and the school climate and culture by _____.”
- “While completing the Self-Assessment, we learned that our school district/school has demonstrated strengths in these areas: _____.”
- “The Self-Assessment helped our school district/school to identify areas for improvement in the following areas: _____.”
- “During the upcoming year, our school district/school will be working towards and seek your involvement in improving _____.”

Posting School and District Grades

The official *District and School Grade Report* issued by the NJDOE on March 4, 2014 must be posted on the appropriate website by **March 18, 2014** (i.e., within 10 days of receipt of the grades from the NJDOE, pursuant to *N.J.S.A. 18A:17-46*) as follows:

- Each school must post the school’s grade and the school district’s grade on the homepage of the school’s website.
- The school district must post the school district’s grade and the grade for each school in the school district on the homepage of the school district’s website.

The embargoed version of the *District and School Grade Report* is not for public release and should not be posted to district websites.