



# WEST MILFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Superintendent

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Director of Education

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Dear Parents and Guardians:

As an educational institution, one primary goal of the West Milford Township Public Schools is for students to participate and learn in a safe, educational setting. In providing this environment, we are steadfast in continuing anti-bullying initiatives that support the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act of 2011. The purpose of this letter is to inform parents of the West Milford Township Board of Education Policy 5512: Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying, pursuant to the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act of 2011, as well as other resources that are available to you. As always, the West Milford Township Public Schools appreciates your support and attention to this important matter.

On January 6, 2011, Governor Christie signed the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act. This law which prohibits harassment, intimidation, and bullying (HIB) went into effect on September 1, 2011. The statute defines bullying, charges schools with the responsibility of creating a school safety team, and requires that each school have an Anti-Bullying Specialist. The district must also assign an Anti-Bullying Coordinator to oversee anti-bullying initiatives. Additionally, this law requires a procedure for investigations, reporting, consequences and remedial measures for students in substantiated bullying cases, and procedures for appeals.

More specifically, if a teacher, staff member, coach, volunteer, or other contracted service employee of the West Milford Township Public Schools witnesses, or is made aware of, an act that is considered HIB, he/she shall report it to the principal on the same day that it occurs and complete the appropriate form. An investigation will be initiated by the Anti-Bullying Specialist (others may assist) and a report will be presented to the principal within 10 days from the reported date. The principal or designee will inform all parents involved. The Superintendent may recommend intervention services, training programs, impose discipline, and order counseling. After completing the investigation, the Superintendent will report to the Board of Education at the next meeting. Parents of all parties have the right to receive information within 5 days after the results of the investigation are given to the Board of Education. After receiving the information, parents may request a hearing within 10 days.

For more information on HIB including contacts, reporting procedures, and resources, please visit our website <http://www.wmtps.org/wmtps/HIB/>.

Sincerely,

Joe Trentacosta  
West Milford Township Public Schools  
District Anti-Bullying Coordinator  
Director of Athletics  
Supervisor of Health, Drivers Education and Physical Education K-12  
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