

**Galway Central School District**  
**Dignity for All Students Act (DASA)**  
**Plain Language Code of Conduct Summary**

In accordance with the mission and vision, adopted by the Galway Central School Board of Education and the Dignity for All Students Act, effective July 1, 2012, the Galway Central School District Board of Education believes that safe, nurturing, and well-managed learning environments allow students to achieve their full potential in school and in life. A well-managed learning environment is one that includes student instruction in civility, citizenship, and character education; one that raises staff awareness of the individual and diverse needs of the student population; and one that trains school staff to respond sensitively and consistently to all incidents of discrimination, harassment, and bullying/cyber-bullying that may result from perceived differences. Otherwise, the failure to respond to acts of discrimination, harassment, cyber-bullying and bullying may interfere with the student's ability to learn and with the school district's ability to educate the students. In order for each student to reach their full academic potential, Galway Central School District is committed to creating and providing a positive school climate that is free from discrimination, harassment, and bullying/cyber-bullying.

**School District Responsibilities:**

The Galway Central School District prohibits all forms of discrimination and harassment by school employees or other students based on actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic affiliation, religion or religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, or gender. This is not an exhaustive list. For example, students with acne or short stature, who are subjected to discrimination, harassment/bullying/cyber-bullying, are also covered by the Dignity Act effective July 2012.

The Galway Central School District Administrators, Dignity Act Coordinator and/or Pupil Services Support Staff will investigate every reported incident of discrimination and harassment that occurs on school property or at school sponsored events. Incidents may be reported to a building administrator or the Dignity Act Coordinator by students, parents, school employees, or concerned community members. The building administrator, Pupil Services Support Staff and/or the Dignity Act Coordinator will interview the alleged targets of discrimination, harassment, or bullying/cyber-bullying, the witnesses, and other relevant individuals. Disciplinary consequences will be assigned as outlined in the student code of conduct for those who have been determined to be in violation of the Code of Conduct/Dignity for All Students Act and safety measures will be provided to the target of such discrimination, harassment, or bullying/cyber-bullying as outlined in Galway Central School District's Code of Conduct.

### **Student Rights:**

The Galway Central School District is committed to safeguarding the rights given to all students under federal and state law and district policy. In addition, to promote a safe, healthy, orderly, supportive school environment, all students have the right to:

1. Students have the right to take part in all district activities on an equal basis regardless of actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic affiliation, religion or religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, or gender.
2. Students have the right to be protected from harassment/bullying/cyber-bullying and discrimination based on actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic affiliation, religion or religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, or gender. This is not an exhaustive list. Galway Central School District may add to the list of protected classes based on their own regional or specialized needs.

### **Student Responsibilities:**

1. Students have the responsibility to work with school staff and their peers to promote a safe school environment that is free from bullying, harassment, and discrimination.
2. Students are expected to treat one another fairly, civilly, and with dignity as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct and the Dignity for All Students Act.
3. Students are encouraged to report incidents of discrimination, harassment, and bullying/cyber-bullying of students by any student and/or school employee that they see, experience, or hear about as soon as reasonably possible to their teacher, building administrator and/or the Dignity Act Coordinator. Students may also use the DASA Incident Report Form located on the Galway Central School District website to report incidents of discrimination, harassment, and bullying/cyber-bullying.

### **Parent/Caregiver Responsibilities:**

1. Parents /Caregivers have the responsibility to teach their children respect and dignity for all people regardless of actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic affiliation, religion or religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, or gender.
2. Parents/Caregivers are encouraged to report incidents of discrimination, harassment, and bullying/cyberbullying of students by any student and/or school employee that they see, experience, or hear about, as soon as reasonably possible to their child's teacher, building administrator and/or the Dignity Act Coordinator. Parents/Caregivers may also use the DASA Incident Report Form located on Galway Central School District website to report incidents of discrimination, and harassment/bullying/cyber-bullying.

**Dignity Act Coordinator:**

Dignity Act Coordinators are required to be trained in human relations regarding race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic affiliation, religion or religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, and gender. The Dignity Act Coordinator will be accessible to all students, parents/caregivers, and staff for consultation regarding the expectations of the Dignity for All Students Act.