

Franklin Board of Education

Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) Awareness Sign-off Form

On January 6, 2011 Governor Christie signed the Anti-bullying Bill of Rights. This law goes into effect on September 1, 2011. The new law prohibits **harassment, intimidation, and bullying**. It defines bullying, clarifies responsibility for conduct away from school grounds, creates a school safety team, and requires that each school have an Anti-bullying Specialist and an Anti-bullying Coordinator. The new law requires procedures for an investigation, reporting, discipline, and any appeals. The law addresses the following types of behavior including: any type of gesture; any written, verbal or physical act; or any electronic communication. They can be a single incident or a series of incidents.

The definition – **HIB** means any gesture; any written, verbal, or physical act; or any electronic communication that is reasonably perceived as being motivated either by any actual or perceived characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or a mental, physical or sensory handicap, or by any other distinguishing characteristic, that takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function, or on a school bus and that:

- A. a reasonable person should know, under the circumstances, that the act(s) of HIB will have the effect of harming a student or damaging the student's property, or placing a student in reasonable fear of harm to his person or damage to his property; or
- B. has the effect of insulting or demeaning any student or group of students in such a way as to cause substantial disruption in, or substantial interference with, the orderly operation of the school.

HIB will be reported if it causes a substantial disruption or interference **and** has the effect of insulting or demeaning a student or group or creates a hostile educational environment by interfering with a student's education or severely or pervasively causing physical or emotional harm to a student.

If a staff member, coach, volunteer or employee of the Franklin Board of Education witnesses an act that is considered HIB, he/she shall report it to the principal on the same day that it occurs. The principal will inform all parents involved. An investigation will occur one day after the verbal disclosure. The Anti-bullying Specialist will perform an investigation (others may assist), and a report will be presented to the principal within 10 days from the reported date. Once the investigation is completed, the Anti-bullying Specialist will forward the report to the principal for disposition/discipline, and the principal will forward a report to the superintendent within 2 days. The superintendent may recommend intervention services, recommend training programs, impose discipline, and order counseling. After the completion of the investigation, the superintendent will report to the board of education at the next meeting.

The new law provides due process for both the accused and the victim(s). Parents of all parties have the right to receive information within 5 days after the results of the investigation are given to the board. After receiving the information, parents may request a hearing within 10 days.

A detailed HIB Policy may be viewed at www.fboe.org.

In signing this form, I am aware of the Franklin Board of Education's HIB Policy, and I understand the definition of Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) and the new procedures and consequences as outlined in the new Anti-bullying Bill of Rights. I have reviewed this HIB form with my child(ren).

Print Parent/Guardian Name

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Children:

Name

Grade/Homeroom

Name

Grade/Homeroom

Name

Grade/Homeroom

Name

Grade/Homeroom