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Guidance for District and School Grades Determined Under the *Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act (ABR) (P.L.2010, c.122)*

Accessing the School and District Grades

To access the *District and School Grade Report*, the district Homeroom 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 Administrator Update Form](#).

District-level users assigned to this project may visit the [NJDOE Homeroom](#) webpage, select the "HIB Grades Report" link and log in to view the PDF document titled, *District and School Grade Report*. The district-level username previously assigned to the HIB Grades Report is still valid if the person assigned to district-level access has remained the same.

Interpreting, Publicizing, and Public Review of the Grades

Interpreting – [Under the Commissioner's Program for Determining Grades](#), 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 78 points). The maximum total score for a school is 78 points. The school district's grade is an average of the total scores of all schools in the school district.

*The NJDOE-issued grade is not represented as a letter grade, and the NJDOE 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 – To comply with state law, districts and schools must post their grades on their websites. School districts and schools **must post the official grade reports** issued by the NJDOE without making any alterations to the PDF document. School districts and schools may choose to replace previous grade reports with the 2016-17 grade report or keep previous reports posted. *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 78 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 harassment, intimidation and bullying (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 may want to consider including the following points or language:

- “Our school district/school has conscientiously implemented the requirements found in the *Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act* by *[provide examples here]*.”
- “Since the implementation of the *Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act*, our school district/school has made progress in addressing harassment, intimidation and bullying incidents and improving the school climate and culture by *[provide examples here]*.”
- “While completing the self-assessment, we learned that our school district/school has demonstrated strengths in these areas: *(Provide examples here)*.”
- “The self-assessment helped our school district/school to identify areas for improvement in the following areas: *[Provide examples here]*.”
- “Our school plans to further assess strengths and vulnerabilities for learning by conducting a school climate survey. We plan to *(provide examples here)*.”
- “In order to promote a positive school climate, our school is teaching students social and emotional learning skills by *[provide examples here]*.”
- “During the upcoming year, our school district/school will be working toward and seeking your involvement in improving *(provide examples here)*.”

Posting School and District Grades

The official 2016-17 District and School Grade Report issued by the NJDOE on May 29, 2018, must be posted, in the original format, on the appropriate websites by June 12, 2018 (i.e., within 10 days of receipt of the grades from the NJDOE). State law (*N.J.S.A. 18A:17-46*) requires each district post its overall district grade *and* the grade of each school in the district on the school district’s homepage. In addition, each school must post its grade *and* the district grade on the school homepage.