



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PO Box 500
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

KIMBERLEY HARRINGTON
Acting Commissioner

***Guidance for Determining Grades
under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act (P.L.2010, c.122)
2016-17 School Year***

The Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is required by state law to grade each public school and school district's efforts to implement the *Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act* (ABR) (*N.J.S.A.18A:17-46*). This guidance document has been developed to help the School Safety/School Climate Team (SS/SCT) fulfill its responsibility to complete the School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the ABR (Self-Assessment), and to help the chief school administrator (CSA), charter school lead person and renaissance school project lead person to fulfill their required responsibilities. For the purpose of this guidance, the term CSA includes charter school lead persons and renaissance school project lead persons, and references to the Board of Education (BOE) include the charter school and renaissance school governing authority.

Conducting the School Self-Assessment

Each school, through its SS/SCT, is required to evaluate its implementation of the ABR from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017 by using the Self-Assessment. The Self-Assessment tool includes eight core elements that address all of the ABR requirements for schools. The SS/SCT must assign a rating for each indicator based on the criteria and available documentation. Samples of documentation that could be used to substantiate the ratings are provided for each indicator. It is essential for school staff to maintain sufficient documentation that will substantiate its ratings on each indicator. The maximum grade a school may receive remains 78.

Each school's Self-Assessment must be consistent with associated information and data collected by the district and data reports submitted to the NJDOE. In selecting a rating category on the Self-Assessment, each school must consider, at a minimum, the following information to verify its status regarding the indicators under each of the core elements:

- Data submitted by schools in each of the following data collection systems:
 - Electronic Violence and Vandalism Reporting System,
 - Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying – Investigations, Trainings and Programs System, and the
 - County District School System;
- The findings from monitoring under the New Jersey Quality Single Accountability Continuum (NJQSAC);
- The findings from investigations of complaints of noncompliance conducted by the NJDOE's county offices of education or the Office of Fiscal Accountability and Compliance; and
- Other sources of information (e.g., student conduct referrals and dispositions, student and staff attendance, student suspensions, school climate surveys, at-risk student behavior surveys).