

# Crisis Communications Around Bullying Incidents

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# The Role of Board Members

## The Board's Role in Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying

- Board revises policy where necessary and involves the community in this process.
- Board policy on HIB is mandated.
- Board members must receive training on HIB; in their first year of service, and in the first year of every re-elected or reappointed term
- Who must report incidents of HIB? School employees, contracted service providers, board members, students, volunteers.
- Board members must report incidents of HIB to the school administration if they witness or have been provided reliable information regarding an HIB incident.
- Board members who promptly report (to school administration) are immune from damages from failure to remedy reported incidents.
- Board reviews the monthly incident reports

# Responsibilities of the District

- Districts are required to have a district anti-bullying coordinator; schools must have school anti-bullying specialists.
- Contact information for those staff members must be posted on the homepage of the website.
- District must have school safety/school climate team.
- Superintendent reports to the board twice a year on acts of violence, vandalism and HIB.
- District must follow strict timelines for the reporting and investigative process when an HIB complaint is filed.
- Schools must complete an HIB self-assessment.
- Information reported to NJDOE.
- Report is used to grade each school in effort to implement policies and programs.
- District receives a grade and the grade must be posted on district and school website.