

# ORANGE TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION AND BULLYING

### Parent and Student Handbook



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**“GOOD TO GREAT”**

## **Orange Board of Education Vision and Mission Statement**

### **Vision:**

"The Orange Public School District commits to provide a safe and caring environment where each student is expected to grow and succeed. We pledge to prepare all students with equitable opportunities for college and career readiness, leading to lifelong learning and responsible citizenship in a competitive global community."

### **Mission:**

- The Orange Public School District in collaboration with all stakeholders is responsible for promoting the academic, social, emotional and personal success of all students.
- With a commitment to academic excellence, the district provides teachers, families, and administrators the tools needed for all students to reach their full potential.
- The district serves all students in our schools, acknowledging their unique backgrounds, cultural perspectives and learning styles.
- The district recognizes that curiosity, discipline, integrity, responsibility and respect are necessary for success.
- The Orange Public School District cultivates a community of 21st century learners where students take ownership of the learning process, achieve high standards of excellence, and focus on academics.

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## District Policy



### **5512.01- HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, AND BULLYING (M)**

#### **Policy Statement**

The Orange Board of Education prohibits acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying of a student. A safe and civil environment in school is necessary for students to learn and achieve high academic standards. Harassment, intimidation, or bullying, like other disruptive or violent behaviors, is conduct that disrupts both a student's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate its students in a safe and disciplined environment. Since students learn by example, school administrators, faculty, staff and volunteers should be commended for demonstrating appropriate behavior, treating others with civility and respect, and refusing to tolerate harassment, intimidation, or bullying.

#### **District Regulation**

### **5512 - REPORTING PROCEDURE - HAZING AND/OR HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION OR BULLYING (M)**

The Board of Education recognizes the need for a procedure to be in place for persons to report and investigate allegations of hazing and/or harassment, intimidation, or **bullying** behavior. For the purposes of this Regulation, "behavior" shall mean acts, or planned acts, of hazing as defined in Policy 5512 and/or acts of harassment, intimidation, or **bullying** as defined in Policy 5512.01. Unless otherwise noted, "Building Principal" means the Principal and/or designee, of the school building.

## **Harassment, Intimidation, or Bullying**

Under NJ law, bullying is any gesture, any written, verbal or physical act, or any electronic communication that is reasonably perceived as being motivated by either an actual or perceived characteristic, such as:

- Race
- Color
- Religion
- Ancestry
- National origin
- Gender
- Sexual orientation
- Gender identity and expression
- Mental, physical, or sensory disability
- Any other distinguishing characteristic



**In order to be bullying, the conduct must:**

- Be something that a reasonable person under the circumstances should know would have the effect of physically or emotionally harming a student or a student's property, or putting a student in reasonable fear of harm to himself or herself or his or her property;
- Insult or put down a student or group of students; or
- Create a hostile educational environment for the student by interfering with their education or severely or pervasively causing physical or emotional harm to the student.

Bullying can be a series of incidents or a single incident. Students are not the only people who can bully others. School officials, staff, and teachers can also commit acts of bullying.

## Implementation of the HIB Legislation

### How will District Implement the HIB Legislation and Regulations?

#### Anti-Bullying Personnel and Assignments

- Formation of District Anti-Bullying Coordinator
- Formation of Anti-Bullying Specialist at each School Building
- Formation of School Safety Team

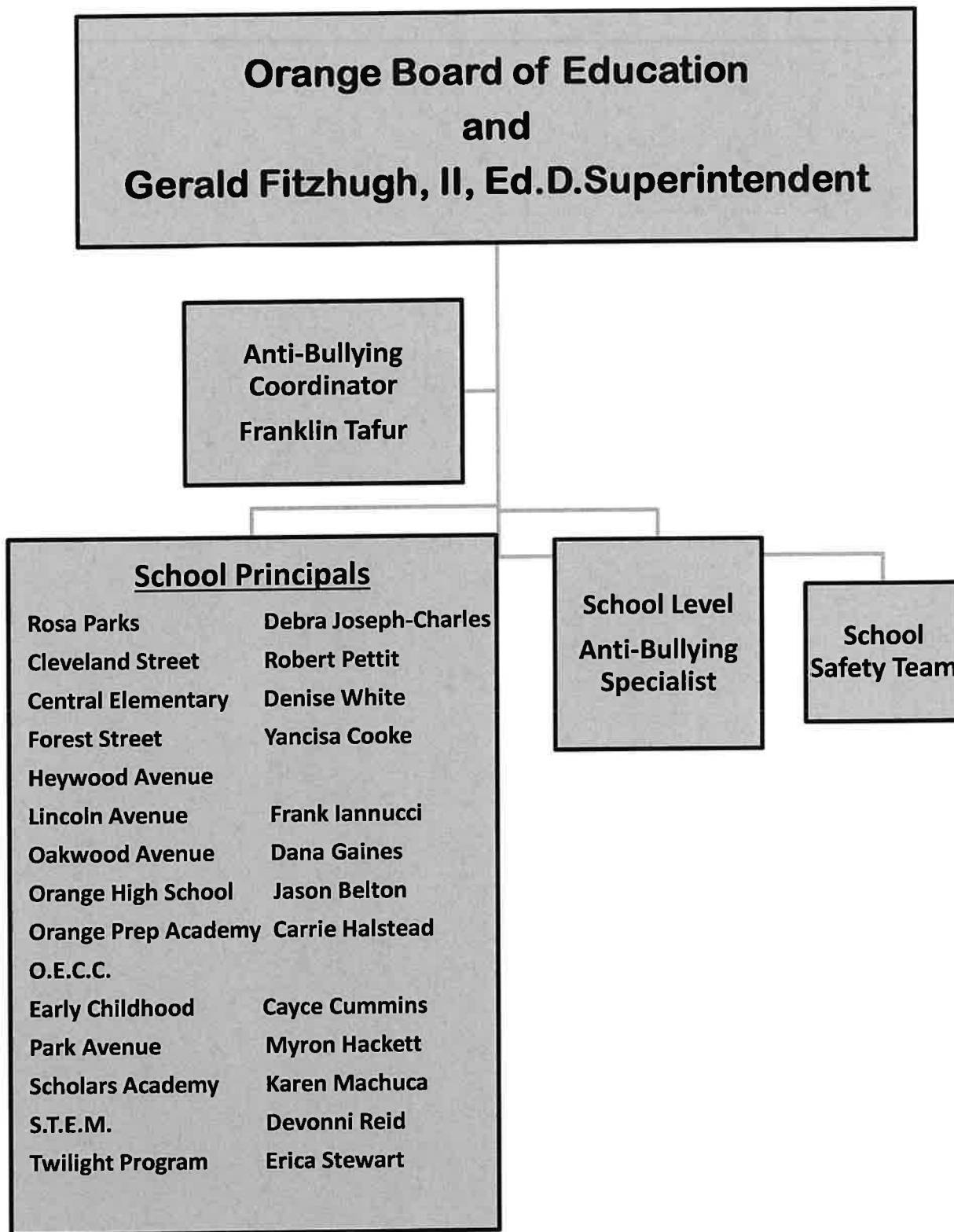
#### Investigation Procedures

- Comprehensive and Explicit timelines
- Verbal report must be made to **Principal** on the **same day the incident occurs**
- Follow-up written report must be completed with **two (2) school days** of verbal report; written by person who reports the incident (Form A)
- **Principal** must initiate investigation within **one (1) school day** of receiving (**verbal**) report and **must contact District Anti-Bullying Coordinator** prior to investigation
- **Principal** must contact parents/guardians and inform them about incident within **one (1) school day** of receiving (**verbal**) report
- Investigation must be conducted by **Principal-Appointed Anti-Bullying Specialist**
- Investigation must be completed as soon as possible; no later than **ten (10) school days** from date of the written report
- **Principal** must give report to the Superintendent within **two (2) school days** of completing the investigation
- **Superintendent** in collaboration with principal must decide actions to be taken:
  - Intervention Services
  - Training Programs
  - Impose Discipline
  - Order Counseling
- **Superintendent** reports the results of the investigation to the Board at the first Board Meeting following completion of the investigation

#### Due Process Rights for Alleged Accused and Alleged Victim (s)

- Parents/guardians of all parties involved have the right to receive information – includes parents/guardians alleged victim and alleged bully. Report includes allegations and findings.
- District must provide information to **both parties** within **five (5) school days** after the results of the investigation were reported to the Board
- Parents/guardians may request a hearing of the Board after receiving information; hearing of the Board must be provided within **ten (10) school days** of the request
- Board must issue a decision in writing at the **first Board Meeting** following the receipt of the report
- Parents of alleged victim may separately file a complaint with the New Jersey Division of Civil Rights (DCR) within 180 calendar days of alleged incident

## Anti-Bullying Organizational Chart





## **Anti-Bullying Coordinator Responsibilities**

### **The District Anti-Bullying Coordinator shall:**

- Be responsible for coordinating and strengthening the school district's policies to prevent, identify, and address harassment, intimidation, or bullying of students
- Collaborate with school Anti-Bullying Specialists in the district, the Board of Education, and the Superintendent to prevent, identify, and respond to harassment, intimidation, or bullying of Students in the District
- Provide data, in collaboration with the Superintendent, to the Department of Education regarding harassment, intimidation, or bullying of students
- Execute such other duties related to school harassment, intimidation, or bullying as requested by the Superintendent
- Meet at least twice a school year with the school Anti-Bullying Specialist(s) to discuss and strengthen procedures and policies to prevent, identify, and address harassment, intimidation, and bullying in the district.



## **Principal's Responsibilities**

### **The Principal shall:**

- Initiate the investigation by the Anti-Bullying Specialist
- Contact parent(s)/guardian(s) and inform them of the incident
- Keep in close contact with the Anti-Bullying Specialist. Update them with current information.
- May appoint others to assist the Anti-Bullying Specialist as needed
- In conjunction with the Anti-Bullying Specialist shall determine the “range” of ways to address the incidents of harassing and/or bullying behavior. These may include: training, discipline actions, counseling or intervention programs.
- Be an active participant of the School Safety team
- Submit the report to the Superintendent
- Provide training on the School HIB Policy to staff and volunteers who have significant contact with students
- Shall annually conduct a reevaluation, reassessment, and review of the HIB Policy with input from the School's Anti-Bullying Specialist, and recommend revisions and additions to district procedures as well as to harassment, intimidation, and bullying prevention programs and approaches based on findings from the evaluation, reassessment and review
- Post the name, school phone number, address and school email address of the School Anti-Bullying Specialist

## Anti-Bullying Specialist Responsibilities



### The District Anti-Bullying Specialist shall:

- Chair the School Safety Team provided in N.J.S.A.18A:37-21
- Lead the investigation of incidents of harassment, intimidation, or bullying in the school
- Act as the primary school official responsible for preventing, identifying, and addressing incidents of harassment, intimidation, or bullying in the school
- Execute other duties related to school harassment, intimidation, or bullying as requested by the principal and/or the Anti-Bully Coordinator
- Meet at least twice a school year with the school Anti-Bullying Coordinator to discuss and strengthen district procedures to prevent, identify, and address harassment, intimidation, and bullying in the district.

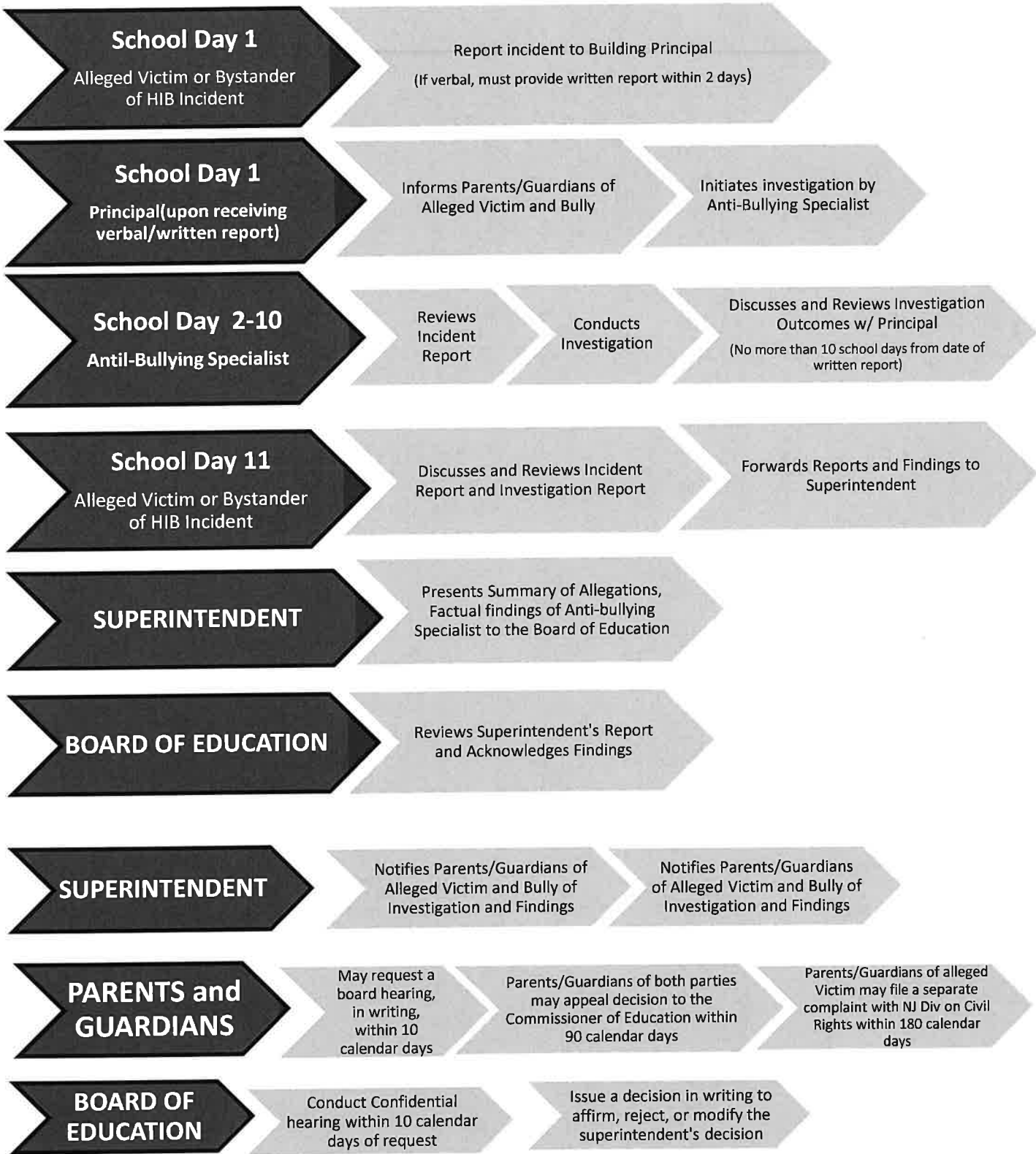
## School Safety Team Responsibilities

### School Safety Team shall:

- The team will consist of a building administrator, teacher, anti-bullying specialist, school counselor, parent/guardian of a student in the school and other members determined by the principal
- Receive any complaints of harassment, intimidation, or bullying of students that have been reported to the principal
- Participate in a minimum of two meetings each school year  
(*Period I - 9/1 – 12/31 and Period II 1/1 – 6/30*)
- Receive copies of any report prepared after an investigation of an incident of harassment, intimidation, or bullying;
- Identify and address patterns of harassment, intimidation, or bullying of students in the school
- Review and strengthen school climate and the policies of the school in order to prevent and address harassment, intimidation, or bullying of students
- Educate the community, including students, teachers, administrative staff, and parents to prevent and address harassment, intimidation, or bullying of Students
- Participate in the training required pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A.18A:37-13 et seq. and other training which the principal or the district Anti-Bullying Coordinator may request
- Collaborate with the district Anti-Bullying Coordinator in the collection of district-wide data and in the development of district policies to prevent and address harassment, intimidation, or bullying of students
- Execute such other duties related to harassment, intimidation, or bullying as requested by the Principal or district Anti-Bullying Coordinator



# Investigation Flowchart



## **School District Self-Assessment Grades under Ant-Bullying of Act**

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 is required to evaluate its implementation of the ABR by using the Self-Assessment. The Self-Assessment tool includes eight core elements that address all of the ABR requirements for schools. The school 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 the Student Safety Data 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
- 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)

**Orange Township Public Schools**  
**HARASSMENT OR INTIMIDATION (BULLYING) REPORTING FORM**

**FORM A**

Directions: Harassment and intimidation (bullying) are serious and will not be tolerated. This is a form to report alleged harassment and intimidation (bullying) that occurred on school property; at a school-sponsored activity or event off school property; on a school bus; or on the way to and/or from school, in the current school year. If you are a student victim, the parent/guardian of a student victim, or a close adult relative of a student victim, or a school staff member and wish to report an incident of alleged harassment or intimidation (bullying), complete this form and return it to the Principal at the student victim's school. Contact the school for additional information or assistance at any time.

**Harassment and intimidation (bullying) means conduct, including verbal conduct, that creates a hostile educational environment by substantially interfering with a student's educational benefits, opportunities, or performance, or with a student's physical or psychological well-being, and is motivated by an actual or a perceived personal characteristic such as race, national origin, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion or disability, or is threatening or seriously intimidating.**

Today's date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Month Day Year

School: \_\_\_\_\_

**PERSON REPORTING INCIDENT**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Place an X in the appropriate box:  Student  Parent/guardian  Close adult relative  School Staff

1. Name of student victim: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Please print)

2. Name(s) of alleged offender(s) (If known): (please print) Age; School; Is he/she a student? (If known)  
 \_\_\_\_\_  Yes  No  
 \_\_\_\_\_  Yes  No  
 \_\_\_\_\_  Yes  No

3. On what date(s) did the incident happen?  
 \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_    \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
 Month Day Year    Month Day Year    Month Day Year

4. Where did the incident happen (choose all that apply)?  
 On school property  At a school-sponsored activity or event off school property  
 On a school bus  On the way to/from school

5. Place an X next to the statement(s) that best describes what happened (choose all that apply):

- Hitting, kicking, shoving, spitting, hair pulling, or throwing something
- Getting another person to hit or harm the student
- Teasing, name-calling, making critical remarks, or threatening, in person or by other means
- Demeaning and making the victim of jokes
- Making rude and/or threatening gestures
- Excluding or rejecting the student
- Intimidating (bullying), extorting, or exploiting
- Spreading harmful rumors or gossip
- Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

6. What did the alleged offender(s) say or do?

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(Attach a separate sheet if necessary)

7. Why did the harassment or intimidation (bullying) occur?

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(Attach a separate sheet if necessary)

8. Did a physical injury result from this incident? Place an X next to one of the following:

- No    Yes, but it did not require medical attention    Yes, and it required medical attention

9. Was the student victim absent from school as a result of the incident?  Yes  No

If yes, how many days was the student victim absent from school as a result of the incident? \_\_\_\_\_

10. Is there any additional information you would like to provide?

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Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



**Orange Township Public Schools  
STUDENT, PARENT and/or GUARDIAN  
H.I.B. CONTRACT**

**FORM B**

Administration Building  
Department of Special Services  
451 Lincoln Avenue Orange, New Jersey 07050  
Website: <http://www.orange.k12.nj.us>  
Office: 973-677-4000 Ext. 6022 Fax: 973-677-4035

**Student's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **School:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Grade:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parents/Guardian Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Please read the Parent/Student HIB Handbook and the District Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Policy. Discuss the contents with your child. This agreement is in partnership with the Orange Township Public Schools District Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Policy 5512 (Students) and Regulations 5512 (Students), which can be found on the school district's webpage under Special Services (<http://www.orange.k12.nj.us>).

**Parent/Guardian:** By signing below, I certify that:

- I have read the Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Policy and Regulations 5512 (Students) and understand their significance
- I have discussed the policy, regulations, and handbook with my child
- I understand the Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Policy will be fully enforced in schools in the district
- I understand how to report an incident of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying and the process that needs to be followed
- I understand the Due Process Rights for All Accused and Alleged Victim (s).

Parent Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Student:** By signing below I certify that:

- I have read Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Policy and Regulations and Handbook or have had them read to me and **understand their significance**
- I have discussed the Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Policy, Regulations, and Handbook with my parents/guardians
- I understand and agree to abide by the rules stated in the Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Policy, Regulations, and **handbook**
- I know that if I am an offender of Harassment, Intimidation or Bullying and violate this contract disciplinary actions listed in the Student Code of Conduct Policy may be taken against me