

CLOSTER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Vincent McHale
Superintendent

To Closter Public School Parents and Guardians:

Since the September 2011- 2012 school year, the Closter Public School District has conscientiously implemented the requirements found in the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act by providing training for staff and students, investigating all instances of harassment, intimidation and/or bullying (HIB) and following the procedures and timelines for supporting students in our district.

Each year, our school district works diligently to make progress in addressing and improving harassment, intimidation and bullying and the school climate and culture by instituting programs and policies to reduce the numbers of verified instances of HIB.

While completing the Self-Assessment for this past school year, we learned that our two schools have demonstrated strengths in these areas: curriculum and instruction on HIB, school-level HIB incident reporting procedures, HIB investigation procedures and HIB reporting.

The Self-Assessment helped our school district/schools to identify that training for staff and students on preventing HIB is something we will continue to improve.

During the upcoming year, our school district/schools will be working toward improving our assessment of HIB programs and initiatives by involving school staff, students, administrators, volunteers, parents, law enforcement and community members. We will also ensure that training of the Closter Board of Education HIB policy will be provided to all contracted service providers and volunteers, in addition to all staff, and that they have signed statement of assurances indicating their understanding of the policy and agree to implement the policy.

Interpreting the grade for your school and our district

Under the Department of Education's Program, 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. 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 department issued grade is not represented as a letter grade.

The Department 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 *AntiBullying Bill of Rights Act* (ABR), as determined primarily through each school's self-assessment of its implementation of the ABR.

Each school is required to post the school's grade and the school district's grade on the homepage of the school's website.

Sincerely,

Vincent McHale

Vincent McHale
Superintendent of Schools