

DASA Task Force Charge

The Dignity for All Students Act (Dignity Act) requires candidates who apply for educator certification as a classroom teacher, school counselor, school psychologist, school social worker, school administrator or supervisor, or superintendent to complete training on the social patterns of harassment, bullying, and discrimination, including cyberbullying. This training includes:

- those acts based on a person's actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender, or sex;
- the identification and mitigation of harassment, bullying, and discrimination; and
- strategies for effectively addressing problems of exclusion, bias, and aggression in educational settings.

Section 80-1.13 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education translates the training described in the Dignity Act into a requirement for certificates in the administrative or supervisory service, classroom teaching service, or school service. Specifically, candidates who apply for these certificates must complete at least six clock hours of training in harassment, bullying, and discrimination prevention and intervention. Three of the six hours must be conducted through face-to-face instruction.

The New York State Education Department convened a DASA Task Force that informed the language in the above regulation and created a syllabus that guides the six hour DASA training. The Department recently received a recommendation from the Legislature that the regulation be amended and syllabus changed so that the training becomes a three-credit course that places the social patterns of harassment, bullying, and discrimination in an appropriate context of multicultural education. In response, the Commissioner reconvened the DASA Task Force to examine the amount of training and content of the DASA curriculum. The task force will ultimately make recommendations to the Commissioner regarding the DASA training.

Outcomes

The DASA Task Force members will engage in the following activities through December 31, 2017.

1. Determine if there are gaps in the knowledge of candidates related to the topics from the Dignity Act and identify the specific gaps, if any.
2. Determine if changes are needed in the DASA training to ensure that candidates have sufficient knowledge of the topics identified in the Dignity Act and make the changes, if needed (e.g., revise the syllabus).
3. Determine the amount of time that candidates need to learn the topics in the DASA training (e.g., six hours, three credit course, more than six hours but less than a course) and how the learning should be assessed.
4. Determine the most effective format(s) for implementing the DASA training for candidates (e.g., face-to-face, online, hybrid).
5. Craft recommendations with a rationale to the Commissioner about the DASA training.