

NJ Anti- Bullying Law

NJSA 18A: 37-14

FAQs

What to Expect if Your Child is Involved in a Reported Bullying Incident

Who is interviewed when an incident of bullying is reported?

The Anti-Bullying Specialists will interview any students that are involved. Typically, the person(s) accused of the reported bullying behavior; the victim(s); and any students who may have witnessed the reported bullying behavior are interviewed.

Are parents present during a student interview?

Anti-Bullying Specialists and principals conduct student interviews regarding a multitude of activities and incidents going on in school buildings each day. Parents are not involved in these interviews, but are updated on the content of these conversations as the investigation is concluded.

Will my child be labeled a “bully” as a result of an investigation?

At no point in time are children labeled “bullies.” The purpose of the Harassment, Intimidation and/or Bullying (HIB) investigation is to determine if a student has violated the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights. Although it may be determined that a child has violated this law, it in no way labels the child or gives the child a state report.

What are the consequences for students who have violated the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights?

Consequences and intervention strategies that result from an investigation are highly variable and individualized. Consequences and intervention strategies may include, but are not limited to, parent conferences, loss of privileges, school detentions, counseling, class lessons, etc. There is no pre-determined consequence for any child involved in a violation of the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights. All consequences are developmentally appropriate and take into consideration the whole child. The goal for these situations is educating students and allowing them to learn from the experience in order to avoid any repeat incidents.

How will this affect my child's school record?

HIB Investigations are completely confidential and no record of the investigation is kept in a student’s cumulative file. The school principal or anti-bullying specialist may keep a file of past investigations for state reporting purposes, but student names are not made public in any way.

What information will I receive at the conclusion of the investigation?

Building principals are required to notify parents of the outcome of the investigation and whether or not consequences/remedial measures were imposed. Again, all information is confidential.

School Districts must follow the Anti-Bullying (HIB) Bill of Rights requirements. This includes the process of the investigation and the paperwork required.

For more information, visit the HIB webpage by going to the district’s homepage at www.spboe.org.