January 2017

On January 10, 2017 the New Jersey Department of Education released the Self-Assessment under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights District and School Grade Report. This report is one of the requirements under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act (ABR).

In order to foster safe and positive learning conditions for students, the school and district grades are part of an integrated process for reinforcing and strengthening a school’s climate and culture through prevention and intervention efforts targeted toward harassment, intimidation, and bullying (HIB). District and school staffs are encouraged to use the data to educate the community about current school practices and engage them in identifying and addressing areas for improvement.

Under the Commissioner’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 (e.g., 65 of 75 points). 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 raw and average scores reflect the school and school district’s degree of compliance with the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act (ABR), as determined primarily through each school’s self-assessment of its implementation of the ABR.

We are very proud that this past year we received a perfect score on the School Self-Assessment. This was a direct result of more focused efforts to ensure not just compliance, but going beyond the general expectations for schools. Our students, staff, and parent community are to be commended for making the goal of anti-bullying a priority in our district.

You can find a variety of information about the Anti-Bullying Rights Act at the NJDOE website: http://www.state.nj.us/education/students/safety/behavior/hib/. The school district website has information as well at: http://www.hohokus.org/hohokus/. We will continue to work to educate our staff and students and create a culture in which bullying is not tolerated. Thank you for your continued support and help in this crucial endeavor.

Sincerely,

Dr. Diane G. Mardy
Superintendent