

To: The Washington Township Public Schools Community

From: Dan Saia, Assistant Director of Assessment, Counseling Services, and Educational Programs Support/District Anti-Bullying Coordinator

Date: January 10, 2017

Re: School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights

Beginning with the September 2011-2012 school year, our district has conscientiously implemented the requirements of the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act (referred to as the ABR). During the first three years of implementation of the ABR, our district has worked diligently to address and prevent incidents of harassment, intimidation, and bullying and to enhance a safe and supportive school climate and culture through various character education initiatives, professional development training for staff, programs for students, enhanced policies and procedures, and a focused integration of instructional and curricular activities. In May, 2016, the New Jersey Department of Education released the criteria by which principals were asked to evaluate different aspects of their school's implementation of the ABR for the 2015-2016 school year. These Self-Assessment results were released by the New Jersey Department of Education on January 3, 2017.

The Self-Assessment includes a variety of indicators that evaluate programs, approaches, training, curriculum and instruction, and reporting and investigative procedures. Each indicator is rated on a 0-3 scale as follows:

- 0 – Does not meet requirements
- 1 – Partially meets requirements
- **2 – Meets all requirements**
- 3 – Exceeds the requirements

Each category has a different number of indicators and therefore, a different maximum amount of points as noted underneath each category heading on the Self-Assessment Report. The maximum number of points available on the entire assessment is 78, which would mean that each of the 26 indicators were rated as "exceeds the requirements." If a school "meets all requirements" and therefore earns a rating of "2" for each of the 26 indicators, then the total score would be 52 points.

As a result of the Self-Assessment, WTPS has further refined Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) procedures and initiatives as per the needs of each individual school. At the district level, our focus has centered on ensuring compliance to the ABR and our revised Board

of Education Policy, and efficiency of process through the integration of HIB reporting and investigation software. In 2015 - 2016 we began our implementation of the *Olweus Bullying Prevention Program* in grades K-8. The goal of this program is not only to prevent and reduce instances of bullying and inappropriate behavior, but improve the overall school and district climate. During the upcoming year, our district plans on continuing our efforts to strengthen programs and approaches and enhancing the integration of HIB prevention into curriculum and instruction.

Your input and feedback on our growth and development in this area is valued and always appreciated. If you have any feedback, suggestions or questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at dsaia@wtps.org. Thank you for your continued attention and support!

