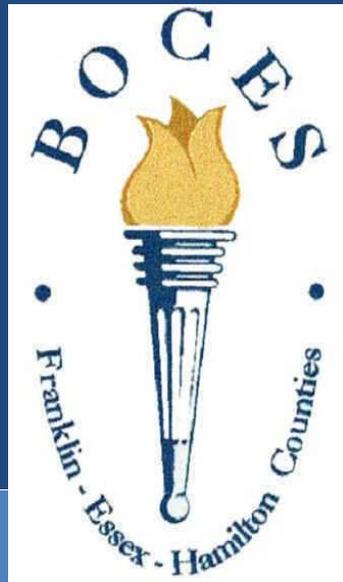


# Safety Newsletter Spring 2012



## Franklin-Essex- Hamilton BOCES

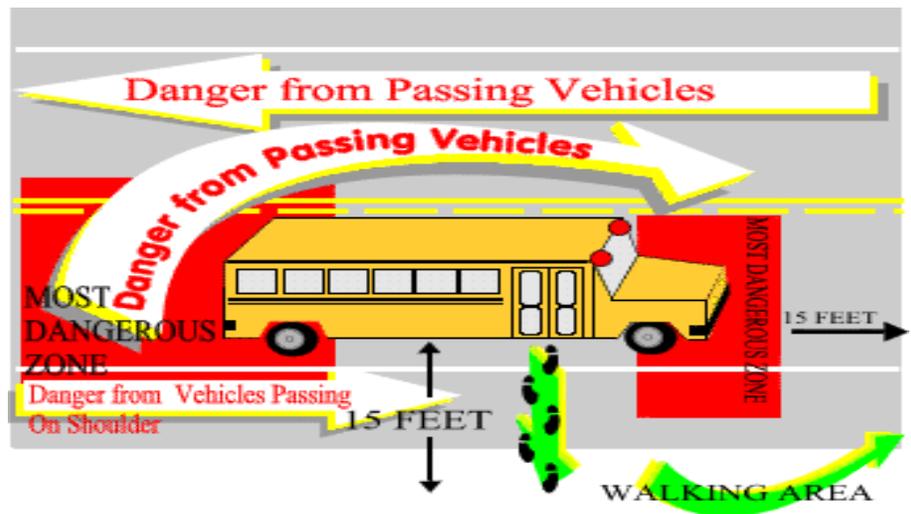
Safety Newsletter

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## Operation Safe Stop April 18, 2012



### WHAT IS OPERATION SAFE STOP?

- Operation Safe Stop seeks to promote school bus safety through education and enforcement efforts. Operation Safe Stop is a cooperative project supported by the New York State Governor's Traffic Safety Committee, the New York State Education Department, the [New York Association for Pupil Transportation](#), the New York State School Bus Contractors Association, the student transportation industry and state, county, city and local law enforcement agencies.



### DID YOU KNOW:

- An estimated 50,000 motor vehicles illegally pass New York State school buses every day.



### THE LAW SAYS:

- It is illegal - and very dangerous - to pass a stopped school bus when the large red lights located on top of the bus are flashing. Flashing lights mean the bus is picking up or discharging students.
- You must stop whether you are approaching the school bus from the front or overtaking it from the rear.
- You must always stop for flashing red lights, even on divided and multilane highways and on school grounds.
- The first-time fine for illegally passing a school bus is a \$250 to \$400 fine, 5 points on your license, and/or possibly 30 days in jail.
- Worse yet, the memory of hitting or killing a child may be one you carry for the rest of your life!

More information can be found at the Operation Safe Stop website:

<http://www.safenyny.gov/opsafstp.htm>

## The Dignity for All Students Act

New York State's Dignity for All Students Act (The Dignity Act) seeks to provide the State's public elementary and secondary school students with a safe and supportive environment free from discrimination, intimidation, taunting, harassment, and bullying on school property, a school bus and/or at a school function.

The Dignity Act was signed into law on September 13, 2010 and takes effect on July 1, 2012.

This legislation amended State Education Law by creating a new Article 2 – Dignity for All Students. The Dignity Act also amended Section 801-a of New York State Education Law regarding instruction in civility, citizenship, and character education by expanding the concepts of tolerance, respect for others and dignity to include: an awareness and sensitivity in the relations of people, including but not limited to, different races, weights, national origins, ethnic groups, religions, religious practices, mental or physical abilities, sexual orientations, gender identity or expression, and sexes. The Dignity Act further amended Section 2801 of the Education Law by requiring Boards of Education to include language addressing The Dignity Act in their codes of conduct.

Additionally, under the Dignity Act, schools will be responsible for collecting and reporting data regarding material incidents of discrimination and harassment by using the annual summary of violent and disruptive incidents form.

For more information, please go to the Dignity for All Students Act webpage located at <http://www.p12.nysed.gov/dignityact/>

### Student Support Services

New York State Department of Education

Phone: (518) 486-6090

Email: [DASA@mail.nysed.gov](mailto:DASA@mail.nysed.gov)

#### Additional Resources for DASA information

<http://www.stopbullying.gov/kids/webisodes/index.html> - includes informational videos for bullying education

<http://www.stopbullying.gov> - US Department of Education, includes resources for kids, teens, young adults, parents, educators, and community, [webisodes](#) for kids, guidance, and much more

### DASA Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Who is protected by the Dignity Act?

A: All public elementary and secondary school students are protected by the Dignity Act.

Q: What does the Dignity Act prohibit?

A: The Dignity Act prohibits the harassment and discrimination of students by students and by school personnel.

Q: How does the Dignity Act relate to bullying and hazing?

A: Bullying and hazing are forms of harassment and discrimination.

Q: What physical spaces are covered by the Dignity Act?

A: The Dignity Act applies to behavior on school property (including athletic fields, playgrounds, and parking lots), in school buildings, on a school bus/vehicle, as well as at school-sponsored events or activities.

Q: How does the Dignity Act relate to the school's Code of Conduct?

A: The Code of Conduct must be amended to reflect the prohibition of discrimination and harassment of students by students or staff — in age appropriate plain language.