

Caldwell-West Caldwell Public Schools
HARRISON BUILDING
104 GRAY STREET, WEST CALDWELL, NJ 07006

SCOTT KLEPESCH
Assistant Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Caldwell-West Caldwell Families:

Beginning with the September 2011-2012 school year, our school district has conscientiously implemented the requirements found in the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act by annually providing our staff with training on aspects related to harassment, intimidation and bullying (HIB). This training established that in turn our staff would be able to effectively mentor students through productive conflict resolution processes. Our district has also supported instructional-based initiatives and extracurricular programs geared towards fostering a positive school climate.

During the first years of implementation of the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act, our school district has made progress in addressing and improving harassment, intimidation and bullying, and the school climate and culture, by educating stakeholders about the Anti-Bullying legislation. As a by-product of disseminating information about the implication of the Anti-Bullying Act, the district has and continues to recognize the need to inform stakeholders about ways to effectively prevent bullying. The state has asked that each school district submit a self-assessment of its implementation of the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act. The self-assessment was viewed as an opportunity to reinforce and strengthen the district's HIB prevention and intervention programs, policies and practices.

While completing the self-assessment, we learned that our school district/school has demonstrated strengths in creating an extensive investigative process, developing an effective communication structure for discussing potential HIB incidents, and establishing an annual process for training new and returning staff. The self-assessment helped our school district identify the continual need to seek out innovative programs to help foster a positive school climate. During the upcoming year, our school district will be working on ways to engage stakeholders in conversations about issues related to school climate. One process currently being deployed has students at each building as well as educators throughout the district completing a school climate survey. Responses from this survey will be analyzed by each school safety team. This valuable information will be accessed to ensure informed decisions are made in regards to addressing school climate issues.

The state also used the self-assessment process to assign a "grade" to each district and individual school. 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.. 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. Corresponding with this letter is a PDF file detailing the district's grade and grade for each individual school.

If you have any questions about HIB or the state's evaluation of the district please reach out to Scott Klepesch, the district's lead HIB contact at sklepesch@cwboe.org

Sincerely,

Scott Klepesch