

## Definition of HIB

Under New Jersey law, "harassment, intimidation, or bullying" means any gesture, any written, verbal or physical act or any electronic communication, whether it is a single incident or a series of incidents, that is:

- a. Reasonably perceived as being motivated by either any actual or perceived characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or a mental, physical or sensory disability, or
- b. By any other distinguishing characteristic; and that
- c. Takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function, on a school bus, or off school grounds, as provided for in N.J.S.A. 18A:37-15.3, that substantially disrupts or interferes with the orderly operation of the school or the rights of other pupils; and that
- d. A reasonable person should know under the circumstances will have the effect of physically or emotionally harming a pupil or damaging the pupil's property, or placing a pupil in reasonable fear of physical or emotional harm to his/her person or damage to his/her property; or
- e. Has the effect of insulting or demeaning any pupil or group of pupils; or
- f. Creates a hostile educational environment for the pupil by interfering with a pupil's education or by severely or pervasively causing physical or emotional harm to the pupil.