

# Glossary of Terms for the School Safety and Educational Climate (SSEC) Reporting System (effective July 1, 2021, starting in the 2021-22 School Year)

## Violent or Disruptive Incident Related Terms [\(1\)](#)

**Violent or disruptive incident:** an incident that occurs on school property of the school district, board of cooperative educational services, charter school or county vocational education and extension board, and falls under one of these categories:

1. **Homicide:**  
any intentional violent conduct that results in the death of another person.
2. **Sexual Offense:**  
Any act committed by a person 10 years of age or older which would constitute a felony under [Article 130 of the Penal Law](#), taking into consideration the developmental capacity of the person to form the intent to commit such act, and where the school has referred the person to the police for the act reported.
3. **Assault:**  
Any act committed by a person 10 years of age or older which would constitute a felony under [Article 120 of the Penal Law](#), taking into consideration the developmental capacity of the person to form the intent to commit such act, and where the school has referred the person to the police for the act reported.
4. **Weapons Possession:**  
An act committed by a person 10 years of age or older which would constitute a felony under [Article 265.00 of the Penal Law](#) taking into consideration the developmental capacity of the person to form the intent to commit such act, and where the school has referred the person to the police for the act.
5. **Material Incidents of Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying**
  - 5a. **Material Incidents of Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying (Excluding Cyberbullying)**  
A single verified incident or a series of related verified incidents where a student is subjected to harassment, bullying, and/or discrimination by a student and/or employee on school property or at a school function. [\(2\)](#) In addition, such term shall include a verified incident or series of related incidents of harassment or bullying that occur off

religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender, or sex.

Commissioner's regulation 100.2(kk)(1)(viii) provides that harassment or bullying means the creation of a hostile environment by conduct or by threats, intimidation or abuse that either: (a) has or would have the effect of unreasonably and substantially interfering with a student's educational performance, opportunities or benefits, or mental, emotional and/or physical well-being, including conduct, threats, intimidation or abuse that reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause emotional harm; or (b) reasonably causes or would reasonably be expected to cause physical injury to a student or to cause a student to fear for his or her physical safety. Such definition shall include acts of harassment or bullying that occur on school property, at a school function, or off school property where such act creates or would foreseeably create a risk of substantial disruption within the school environment, where it is foreseeable that the conduct, threats, intimidation or abuse might reach school property. For the purposes of this definition the term "threats, intimidation or abuse" shall include verbal and non-verbal actions.[\(3\)](#)

- **Bullying** is defined as a form of unwanted, aggressive behavior that involves a real or perceived power imbalance and that is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time. [\(4\)](#)

Please note the following "elements of bullying" do not solely determine whether an incident is material.

- f* **Imbalance of power:** An imbalance of power involves the use of physical strength, popularity, or access to embarrassing information to hurt or control another person.
- f* **Repetition:** Bullying typically repeated, occurring more than once or having the potential to occur more than once.
- f* **Intent to Harm:** The person bullying has the goal to cause harm. Bullying is not accidental.
- **Discrimination** not specifically defined in the Dignity Act. However, it would include any form of discrimination against students prohibited by state or federal law such as, for example, the denial of equal treatment, admission, and/or access to programs, facilities, and services based on the person's actual or perceived race, color, weight, national origin, ethnic group, religion, religious practice, disability, sexual orientation, gender (including gender identity), or sex. It should be noted that Educational Law §3201 and 3201-a prohibit discrimination in the form of denial of admission into or exclusion from any public school on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, and sex.

#### **5b. Cyberbullying:**

is defined as harassment or bullying that occurs through any form of electronic communication, (Ed. Law §11[8]) including, but not limited to, cell phones, computers, and tablets, or other communication tools, including social media sites, text messages,

chat rooms, and websites.(See definition of harassment or bullying as defined in 5a. and Commissioner's regulation 100.2(kk)(1)(viii))

- 6. Bomb Threat:**  
a telephoned, written or electronic message that a bomb, explosive, or chemical or biological weapon has been or will be placed on school property.
- 7. Falsa Alarm:**  
causing a fire alarm or other disaster alarm to be activated knowing there is no danger, or through false reporting of a fire or disaster.
- 8. Threat of School Violence (Other than Bomb Threat or False Alarm):**  
a verbal, telephoned, written or electronic message of a threat of violence on school property or at a school related function.
- 9. Use, Possession, or Sale of Drugs:**  
illegally using, possessing, or being under the influence of a controlled substance or marijuana, on school property or at a school function, including having such substance on a person in a locker, vehicle, or other personal space; selling or distributing a controlled substance or marijuana, on school property; finding a controlled substance or marijuana, on school property that is not in the possession of any person; provided that nothing herein shall be construed to apply to the lawful administration of a prescription drug on school property.
- 10. Use, Possession, or Sale of Alcohol:**  
illegally using, possessing, or being under the influence of alcohol on school property or at a school function. This includes possessing alcohol on a person, in a locker, a vehicle or other personal space; selling or distributing alcohol on school property or at a school function; and finding alcohol on school property that is not in the possession of any person.

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## Bias-Related Terms [\(5\)](#)

### 1. Biased-related conduct:

behavior that is motivated by a target/victim's race, color, creed, national origin, gender



**11. Sex:**

is the biological and physiological characteristics that define men and women.

**12. Other:**

can include, but is not limited to, physical characteristics age, socio-economic status, health condition, housing, domestic relationships, social/academic status, etc.

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## Other Related Terms

**1. Gang-Related:**

when an incident involves one or more than one offender, known to be a member of an organized group, or gang, which is characterized by turf concerns, symbols, special dress, and/or colors that engages students in delinquent or illegal activity.

**2. Group-Related:**

an incident is group-related if it is several individuals that assemble for the purpose of engaging in or contributing to actions that occur during the incident.

**3. School Property:**

shall mean in or within any building, structure, athletic playing field, playground, parking lot, or land contained within the real property boundary line of a public elementary or

**7. Victim:**

see the definition of target.

**8. Other:**

refers to a target/victim or offender who is unknown, or neither a student, nor a staff member

**Community Service:** when a school/district determines work that is assigned without pay to help a community.

- x **Juvenile Justice or Criminal Justice System:** when the school is aware that a student, under the supervision of juvenile justice of the criminal justice system, engages in an incident that may rise to the level of a criminal offense, the school reports the incident to the juvenile justice system for intervention.
- x **Law Enforcement:** when a student engages in an incident, that occurs on school grounds, during school-related events, or while on school transportation, and the incident may rise to the level of a criminal offense, the school reports the incident

