



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: June 21, 2023
To: Local Educational Agency Leads
Route To: Principals, Anti-Bullying Coordinators, Anti-Bullying Specialists
From: Kathy Ehling, Assistant Commissioner
Division of Educational Services
Deadline: October 31, 2023

2022-2023 Program for Determining Grades Under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act

The New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE) is announcing the opening of the 2022-2023 School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act (ABR). Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) submit information into the online Self-Assessment program, and the data is used to grade each LEAs effort to implement the ABR pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-46. The deadline to submit self-assessments is October 31, 2023.

Key steps/actions

The school safety/school climate team is required to complete the self-assessment and have a school-level user enter ratings into the online system that is accessed by selecting the “HIB-Grades” link on the [NJDOE Homeroom](#) webpage. A district-level user must review the self-assessment for accuracy and request edits as necessary. It is important to note that there have been changes and updates to this year’s self-assessment, which reflect the [2022 Amendments](#) to the ABR effective for the 2022-2023 school year. For example, schools that have a harassment, intimidation and bullying (HIB) policy that permits the use of a preliminary determination must now report the number of times a preliminary determination was made to not conduct an HIB investigation.

The chief school administrator, charter school lead person or renaissance school project lead person is responsible for presenting each completed self-assessment at a public board of education (BOE) meeting in order to obtain public comment and board approval. Once BOE approval is granted, the chief school administrator, charter school or renaissance school project lead person will formally submit the ratings by certifying the statement of assurances in the self-assessment system.

To assist LEAs in the completion of this assessment, the NJDOE has posted online [guidance documents and resources](#) that include a self-assessment summary report and an activities checklist titled “Overview of Activities.”

If a completed, certified self-assessment is not submitted by the October 31, 2023 deadline, the NJDOE may issue a zero (0) for that school’s grade, which will also have a negative effect on the LEA’s grade.

Contact information

For questions, please email HIBGrades@doe.nj.gov. Thank you for your ongoing efforts to provide safe and positive learning conditions for our students.

c: Members, State Board of Education
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group