Date: June 25, 2025

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, 2025

2024-2025 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 2024-25 School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the *Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act* (ABR). Schools submit local information into the online Self-Assessment program, and the data is used to grade each public school's and district's efforts to implement the ABR pursuant to N.J.S.A.18A:17-46. The deadline to submit the Self-Assessments is October 31, 2025.

Key steps/actions

The school safety/school climate team in each school is required to complete the Self-Assessment and have a school-level user enter the school's ratings into the online system that is accessed by selecting the "HIB-Grades" link on the NJDOE Homeroom webpage. The district-level user must review the Self-Assessment for accuracy and request each school make any changes as necessary.

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 to obtain public comment and BOE 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 help schools meet the requirements of this program, the NJDOE has posted online <u>guidance</u> <u>documents and resources</u> that include an "Activities Checklist".

If a completed, certified Self-Assessment is not submitted by the October 31, 2025 deadline, the NJDOE may issue a zero (0) for that school's grade, which will also have a negative effect on the district's grade.

Contact Information

For any questions, please email <u>HIBGrades@doe.nj.gov</u>. 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