

Statement on Harassment

To: All Students, Parents and Staff

From: Dr. Lynn M. Gibson, Superintendent, and Members of the Board of Education of Hononegah Community High School District No. 207

Date: May 26, 2015

Over the course of the past year, the District has had the opportunity to undertake a review and assessment of its policies and procedures regarding harassment in the school environment. The District has always maintained a proactive approach to dealing with issues related to harassment, and will continue its efforts to erase instances of harassment from Hononegah High School. While the District can never guarantee that no instances of harassment may arise from time to time, it remains committed to ensuring that the District's policies, procedures and attitudes reflect its commitment to prohibiting harassment.

As part of this review process, the District is updating and revising its policies and procedures regarding harassment. Final versions of these new policies will be available over the next several weeks, and the District will be informing all students, parents and staff of the content of these new policies on harassment. The ultimate purpose of these new policies is to make very clear what constitutes harassment, how to report any instances of harassment which may occur, and what the District will do in response to any reports. The District remains steadfast in that it does not and will not tolerate acts of harassment in the school environment, particularly harassment based up an individual's membership in a protected class, including gender, disability, sexual orientation, race, color, national origin, or religion.

Any student who believes that he or she has been subjected to harassment or a hostile environment, including sexual harassment, racial harassment or other impermissible forms of harassment, is encouraged to immediately report the harassment or hostile environment to the District so that it can conduct a prompt investigation into the matter. Any student or staff member who is found to have committed an offense of harassment, including sexual harassment or racial harassment, will be promptly disciplined consistent with the policies of the District.

Furthermore, the District encourages all members of the school community, including students, parents and staff, to work together to prevent acts of harassment of any kind. To this end, the District will be working with the Student Handbook Committee to review and make recommendations to the District regarding ways to help reduce and eradicate instances of harassment in the school environment. Again, the District encourages you to review and ask any questions you may have about the updated and revised policies that will be published over the next several weeks, and which will be made available on the District's internet website: www.hononegah.org.