

The Anti-Bullying Act enacted in 2010 does not cover all actions that you may consider to be bullying – please see below.

- “The statutory definition of “bullying” does not include all violent or aggressive conduct against a student. The definition, both before and after the adoption of the 2010 Anti-Bullying Act, refers to conduct that is “reasonably perceived as being motivated” by a “distinguishing characteristic” of the victim, such as, “race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or a mental, physical, or sensory [disability]” N.J.S.A. 18A:37-14.”
- “The statute has not limited “distinguishing characteristic” to those specifically enumerated, but it has consistently required such a perceived motivation. Thus, harmful or demeaning conduct motivated only by another reason, for example, a dispute about relationships or personal belongings, or aggressive conduct without identifiable motivation, does not come within the statutory definition of bullying.”

- *K.L. v. Evesham Township Bd. Of Educ.*, 423 N.J. Super. 337, 351 (2011)