

Purpose of SSDS

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 18A:17-46, all NJ public school district must use the Student Safety Data System (SSDS) to report all incidents of violence, vandalism, weapons, substance abuse, restraints and HIB incidents that occur in their schools. In addition, the district also reports the training and programs put in place to positively impact the school climate and curb incidences of HIB.

The District reports this information to the Board and public on a semi-annual basis.

This report will cover the first reporting period of September 1st through December 31st, 2023.

Policy 5512 - Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying

“Harassment, intimidation, or bullying” means any gesture, any written, verbal or physical act, or any electronic communication, as defined in N.J.S.A. 18A:37-14, whether it be a single incident or a series of incidents that:

1. Is reasonably perceived as being motivated by either any actual or perceived characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or a mental, physical or sensory disability, or by any other distinguishing characteristic;
2. Takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function, on a school bus, or off school grounds, as provided for in N.J.S.A. 18A:37-15.3;
3. Substantially disrupts or interferes with the orderly operation of the school or the rights of other students; and that
 - a. A reasonable person should know, under the circumstances, that the act(s) will have the effect of physically or emotionally harming a student or damaging the student’s property, or placing a student in reasonable fear or physical or emotional harm to their person or damage to their property; or
 - b. Has the effect of insulting or demeaning any student or group of students; or
 - c. Creates a hostile educational environment for the student by interfering with a student’s education or by severely or pervasively causing physical or emotional harm to the student.

Total Incidents

Reporting Period 1: September - December 2023

	BCMS		SBS		WES	
Violence	0		0		0	
Vandalism	0		0		0	
Weapons Offenses	0		0		0	
Substances Offenses	0		0		0	
Restraint/ Seclusion	1		0		1	
HIB Cases	15 Alleged	6 Confirmed	5 Alleged	0 Confirmed	1 Alleged	0 Confirmed

EDUCATIONAL ENHANCEMENTS

- Implemented **additional training for staff** ensuring they are equipped with an understanding of the law and strategies and tools for effectively managing classroom dynamics and supporting student needs.
- Introduced **additional lessons for students** aimed at addressing their current needs and gaps in understanding, ensuring educational content is relevant and engaging.
- Developed **more student programs** designed to engage students in a variety of safety activities, enhancing their awareness and participation in creating a safer school environment.
- Developed a **tiered approach to consequences** ensuring they are more developmentally appropriate for students at different stages of growth and understanding, facilitating a more effective and understanding-based disciplinary approach.

HIB Trainings

BCMS	SBS	WES
Training for all staff on HIB policy, reporting requirements, and procedures at building-level in-service		
Parent video presentation at individual building Back to School Night presentation and on district website on understanding HIB, reporting, investigation procedures, and supporting students.		
Staff training by district's attorney		
Student lessons on HIB by District Anti-Bullying Coordinator		

School Programs

BCMS	SBS	WES
Cyber Safety Assembly for students	Start with Hello Week	Start with Hello Week
Cyber Safety Parent Information Session	Week of Respect	Week of Respect
School Violence Awareness Week Activities (guidance lessons, focus on Sandy Hook curriculum, grade level assemblies)		
Week of Respect Activities (speaker and follow up activities)		

SAFETY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Enhanced **communication with families** by providing more frequent updates and insights into school activities, policies, and student progress, fostering a stronger school-community partnership.
- Conducted **data analysis by school** safety teams (school counselors, administration, teachers, and parents) to identify trends, assess the effectiveness of current safety measures, and implement improvements where necessary.

Next Steps

Persist in Engaging Families with the HIB Statute

Continue to actively involve families in understanding the Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) Statute, emphasizing the importance of their role in fostering a safe and respectful school environment.

Maintain and Expand Student Programming

Sustain and broaden additional programming for students, aimed at enhancing their awareness with regard to harassment, intimidation, and bullying and appropriate conduct.

Implement Tiered Consequences and Policy Revisions

Keep advancing the implementation of tiered consequences that are developmentally appropriate, while updating the code of conduct policy.

Continuing Education Regarding HIB, Cultural Diversity, and Cyber Awareness

Provide programs and information for students, parents, teachers, and other school personnel to build awareness of societal trends and pressures facing students today.

THANK YOU