

**TOMS RIVER REGIONAL SCHOOLS
SEMI-ANNUAL DISTRICT STUDENT SAFETY DATA SYSTEM (SSDS) REPORT**

**Presented to the Toms River Regional Schools Board of Education
June 16, 2021**

By law, all New Jersey public school districts use the Student Safety Data System (SSDS) to report incidents of violence, vandalism, weapons, and substance abuse, as well as harassment, intimidation, and bullying (HIB). These reports fulfill state and federal requirements and are presented semi-annually for the periods of July 1-December 31 and January 1-June 30. The following information has been collated for the reporting period of July 1 to December 31, 2020. It is important to note that due to our later transition to an in-person learning model, as well as a delay in bringing back the full population of students, our numbers are significantly lower than usual. In the beginning half of this school year, there were reported:

3	Acts of violence (fight, assault, threat)
0	Damage to Property (arson, theft, trespass, false public alarm)
0	Weapons
1	Substance abuse
2	HIB confirmed*
6	TOTAL

*HIB alleged: 17

As per research, these types of behaviors have a strong correlation with a significant decrease in a child's academic achievement, an increase in concerning behaviors outside school, and their subsequent future growth and success. Reducing incidents and addressing the issues behind them will continue to be a priority for our 2400 teachers, support staff, administrators, guidance counselors, SACs, and school resource and safety officers within our schools, as well as families, mental health professionals, local law enforcement, and other members of our community. Toms River Regional Schools has fostered several partnerships supporting this work. For several years, the district has partnered with the Health & Wellness Coalition through the Communities That Care work within the county to address the impact of addiction; safety officers have been adopted in every building; a partnership with the YMCA was forged, through which students and families have access to counselors at every school (through funding granted by the Hirair and Anna Hovnanian Foundation); and the Grunin Foundation funded district use of Suite360, a digital platform with various interventions and mental health support resources. These curricular resources were implemented for secondary students.

For the 2021-2022 school year, we are looking to add a comprehensive drug and alcohol education curriculum to our intermediate program. One of these programs, "Catch My Breath" will be aimed at providing an updated education for students regarding the dangers of nicotine and vaping.

Each month the Board reviews SSDS data and district staff analyze the relationships among student performance, demographics, and school climate survey data in comparison to student safety, conduct, and social emotional indicators. Wellness, character building, and HIB-reduction have always been part of our health curriculum, but have more recently become a standard curricular component for all content areas. Schools have put intervention programs in place like Responsive Classrooms and Positive Behavioral Support systems. These efforts are highlighted district wide through dozens of activities during the Week of Respect, Red Ribbon Week, School Violence Awareness Week, and Child Assault Prevention Week. And we are effectively engaging students to be a part of the solution, through elementary leadership training and secondary student organizations like TEAM, Impact, Interact, LEADERS, Character Club, Captain's Crew, Tribe Vibe, DART and peer mentors.