

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

**Presented to the Toms River Regional Schools Board of Education
June 15, 2022**

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, 2021. 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:

40	Acts of violence (fight, assault, threat)
11	Damage to Property (arson, theft, trespass, false public alarm)
7	Weapons
29	Substance abuse
48	HIB confirmed*
135	TOTAL

*HIB alleged: 74

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. Through a targeted focus on identifying and addressing the issues behind the incidences, all of our staff members, in partnership with families, mental health professionals, local law enforcement, and other members of our community, seek to promote positive behaviors and thereby have an overall impact on these types of incidences. Toms River Regional Schools has fostered numerous 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; the use of Suite360, a digital platform with various interventions and mental health support resources. This year HS South worked with the OC Prosecutor's office to implement a Youth Advocate Program that focuses on restorative disciplinary practices, designed to embed a collaborative therapeutic approach to mental health issues and problem behaviors; we hope to expand this effort during the 22-23SY. Additionally, we work diligently to ensure that appropriate prevention-based curricular resources are aligned with NJ Student Learning Standards.

Additionally, American Rescue funds have allowed us to bring in social workers to support school-based mental health initiatives. During the 2021-2022 school year, we have added various mental health, and drug & alcohol prevention education curriculum resources to both our intermediate and high school programs. These include an updated vaping program to educate students regarding the dangers of nicotine and vaping, expanded peer-based education programs such as the Youth Prevention Coalition, student leaders who are trained through our partnership with RWJ to teach their peers about the dangers of vaping, and the TR United Student Leadership Committee.

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.