

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

**Presented to the Toms River Regional Schools Board of Education
November 22, 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 January 1 to June 30, 2022. Comparing this year's SSDS Report to our Pre-Covid SSDS Report (18-19), we observed an eight (8) percent reduction in the number of reportable offenses. In the beginning half of this school year, there were reported:

109	Acts of violence (fight, assault, threat)
18	Damage to Property (arson, theft, trespass, false public alarm)
13	Weapons
67	Substance abuse
78	HIB confirmed*
285	TOTAL

*HIB alleged: 120

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 use of Suite360, a digital platform with various interventions and mental health support resources. These curricular resources were implemented for secondary students.

Additionally, American Rescue funds have allowed us to begin to bring in social workers to support school-based mental health initiatives. Several of our schools have already been staffed. During the 2022-2023 school year, we will be adding various drug and alcohol education curriculum resources to our intermediate programs 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.