

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

**Presented to the Toms River Regional Schools Board of Education
July 17, 2024**

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 - December 31, 2023. In the beginning half of this school year, there were reported:

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|------------|---|
| 73 | Acts of violence (fight, assault, threat) |
| 24 | Damage to Property (arson, theft, trespass, false public alarm) |
| 4 | Weapons |
| 39 | Substance abuse |
| 41 | HIB confirmed* |
| 181 | TOTAL |

*HIB alleged: 89

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 all of our school stakeholders.

Toms River Regional Schools has fostered several community partnerships to address the impact of addiction, support mental health and well-being, and promote overall school safety through organizations such as the Health and Wellness Coalition (Communities that Care and Bright Harbor), YMCA, Effective School Solutions, and the Toms River Police Department. We offer various character based and social and emotional educational platforms to promote self and social awareness and citizenship as an expectation of a Toms River student.

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.

Through our collective efforts, we have been able to observe a 22.5% reduction in aggressive behavior, 16% reduction in disruptive behavior, 23% reduction in the number of confirmed HIBs, and a 2.5% reduction in the number of school suspensions while noting a significant increase in number of community service hours over the course of the 23-24 SY.