

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

**Presented to the Toms River Regional Schools Board of Education
November 20, 2024**

New Jersey public school districts use the Student Safety Data System (SSDS) to report incidents like violence, vandalism, weapons, substance abuse, and harassment, intimidation, and bullying (HIB), meeting state and federal requirements. These reports are submitted twice a year for July 1-December 31 and January 1-June 30.

For the period of January 1 to June 30, 2024, there was a 21% decrease in reportable offenses and a 41% decrease in confirmed HIBs compared to the November 2023 report, with reductions across most categories. In the first half of this school year, the following were reported:

131	Acts of violence (fight, assault, threat)
24	Damage to Property (arson, theft, trespass, false public alarm)
9	Weapons
62	Substance abuse
52	HIB confirmed*
278	TOTAL

*HIB alleged: 112

Research shows that certain behaviors strongly correlate with decreased academic achievement, increased concerning behaviors, and impact future success. Reducing these incidents is a high priority for school stakeholders.

Toms River Regional Schools collaborates with community partners such as the Health and Wellness Coalition, YMCA, Effective School Solutions, and the Toms River Police Department to address addiction, mental health, and promote school safety. We offer character-based and social-emotional education to foster self-awareness and citizenship.

The Board reviews SSDS data monthly, and staff analyze student performance, demographics, and school climate data in relation to student safety and conduct. Wellness, character building, and HIB-reduction are now integrated into all curricular areas. Programs like Responsive Classrooms and Positive Behavioral Support systems are implemented. Efforts are highlighted during the Week of Respect, Red Ribbon Week, and others. Student engagement is encouraged through leadership training and organizations like TEAM, Impact, Interact, and peer mentors.