Cherry Hill School District

Annual Violence, Vandalism, Weapons & Substance Abuse Report

2016–2017 School Year

Presented to the BOE on October 17, 2017
Dr. Joseph Meloche, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. Anthony Saporito, Director of Security

__Introduction__

The Cherry Hill School District's Annual Violence Report is submitted each year at a public meeting to the school district's administration and to the members of the Board of Education. The annual report reflects a summary of incidents that were reported during the 2016-2017 school year. The types of incidents reported during the school year are listed under the heading of five major categories:

- Violence
- Vandalism
- Weapons
- Substance Abuse
- Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB)

The Annual Violence report also tracks the trend of incidents that have occurred over a five-year period. The tracking of reported incidents, over an extended period of time, has proven to be a more accurate assessment in an effort to identify a pattern of disruptive behavior that tends to be repetitive. This will be the last year operating under the EVVRS. The State DOE has implemented a new system, the Student Safety Data System.

Total Incidents Reported

- Overview -

This year's annual violence report reflects the total number of incidents reported for the 2016/17 school year. There were 203 incidents reported in 2015/2016 school year, compared to 185 incidents reported this year.   The types of incidents reported in each of the categories is reflected on the following pages.

Category	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Violence	35	40	40	51	39
Vandalism	18	24	14	24	16
Weapons	6	3	12	8	5
Substance Abuse	17	19	25	33	54*
HIB	23	39	73	87	71
TOTAL	99	125	164	203	185**

* Unduplicated Total

** Includes 2 incidents that were reported in 2 separate categories

Violence Category
2016/2017

- This year 39 incidents were reported in the Violence Category 12 less than the previous year. Under the Violence Category the number of assaults increased by 9 and threats decreased by 11.

- The 4 Sex Offenses was 1 less than last year. They involved 1 inappropriate touching incident, 2 sending of inappropriate pictures to a classmate and 1 exposure.

Violence Category

- Overview -

Category	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Assault	10	14	12	12	21
Fighting	11	15	16	15	6
Sex Offense	2	2	5	5	4
Threats	<u>12</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>8</u>
TOTAL	35	40	40	51	39

Vandalism Category
2016/2017

- In the Vandalism Category, there were 16 incidents reported this year in comparison to 24 incidents reported last year.

- There were 11 incidents of Property Damage this year in comparison to 6 incidents last year. There were 2 incidents of Theft reported this year in comparison to 12 incidents reported last year.

- There were 0 Bomb Threat incidents reported this year, same as last year.

Vandalism Category
- Overview -

Category	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Arson	0	0	1	0	0
Bomb Threats	4	7	0	3	0
Burglaries	0	1	0	0	0
Fake Bomb	0	0	0	1	0
Property Damage	2	8	4	6	11
Fire Alarms/Fireworks	0	0	0	0	1
Theft	12	8	7	12	2
Trespassing	0	0	2	2	2
TOTAL	18	24	14	24	16

Weapons Category
2016/2017

- In the Weapons Category there was a decrease in the number of incidents reported.

- This year 5 incidents were reported in comparison to 8 incidents last year.

- None of the weapons were used in an offense
    - During the past five years, only one year reflected an assault with a weapon. That incident involved a pen.
    - The DOE requires that these types of incidents be reported as Weapons Offenses.
    - Police are notified regarding all incidents that involve any type of a weapon.

Weapons Category
- Overview -

Category	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
Assaults Involving Weapons					
Pen	0	1	0	0	0
Possession of Weapons					
Folding Knife	5	2	11	8	4
Utility Knife	1	0	1	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	1*
TOTAL	6	3	12	8	5

*Partial blade from a kitchen knife

Substance Abuse Category
2016/2017

There was an increase in the number of Substance Abuse incidents reported.
This year 54 incidents were reported compared to 33 incidents reported last year.

- **Alcohol Use, Possession & Distribution:**
  One incident involved the use of Alcohol.

- **Marijuana Use, Possession & Distribution:**
  This year there were 16 incidents reported involving students found to
  be under the influence of marijuana compared to 17 incidents last year.
  One student was found to be in possession of marijuana,
  compared to 2 incidents reported the previous year.

- **Distribution**
  There were no incidents reported this year involving the distribution of
  a Controlled Dangerous Substance. There was 1 incident reported
  the previous year.

Substance Abuse Category

- Overview -

	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
USE	**13**	**17**	**17**	**24**	**50**
Alcohol	0	0	1	2	11
Marijuana	13	17	16	22	37
Other	0	0	0	0	2
POSSESSION	**1**	**2**	**7**	**9**	**10**
Alcohol	0	0	2	3	4
Marijuana	1	2	4	3	4
Other	0	0	1	3	2
DISTRIBUTION	**1**	**0**	**1**	**0**	**0**
Alcohol	0	0	0	0	0
Marijuana	0	0	1	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0
PARAPHERNALIA	**2**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
TOTAL	17	9	25	33	60

HIB Incidents
2016/2017

There were 71 HIB incidents reported this year in comparison to 87 incidents reported the previous year.

	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016
TOTAL HIB INCIDENTS	39	73	87

The Administration is committed to implementing pro-active initiatives that foster a civil and productive learning environment for students and staff.

- On-going HIB Training, sponsored by the NJDOE or provided by the school district, on Anti-Bullying Rights Law, HIB behaviors and required reporting procedures for HIB.
- In district protocols developed to clarify HIB reporting criteria.
- Presentations and programs presented to students and staff during the commemoration of "Week of Respect"

Total Action Taken

This section of the report reflects the type of action initiated by the school administration for inappropriate conduct.

- **Incidents Reported to Police but Not Referred to Family Court:**
  40 incidents were documented on a police report.   These incidents were adjusted with school discipline.

- **Incidents Reported to Police and Referred to Family Court:**
  26 incidents were reported to police and referred to family court.

- **In-School Suspension:**
  19 students were assigned to the In School Support Program for committing minor school infractions.

- **Out of School Suspension:**
  110 students were suspended out of school.

Safe School Practices

The following measures reflect an overall review of the safe school initiatives that have been implemented over the past years:

- Strong emphasis on Character Education – teaching students to be responsible young adults

- CHPD social media safety presentation

- Annual review of the district's Crisis Management Plan

- Continuation of the School Resource Officer and School Safety Assistants Program at the high schools

- Classroom presentations and discussions on the topic of bullying

- Visitor Greeting Program at the main entrance in all the schools

- Student and staff photo IDs

Safe School Practices
(Cont'd)

- Referrals to SAC – at risk students referred to counseling staff

- Memorandum of Agreement with the Cherry Hill Police Department and CCPO

- Computer Access to Police Reporting System

- Megan's Law Notification Protocol

- Zero Tolerance for all Weapons and Substance Abuse offenses

- Continue practice of conducting monthly School Safety Drills and Fire Drills

- Access control system at all the schools

- Maintain the school district's Building Alarm Code System for designated employees

- Passive Alcohol Sensor Program – administered at high school dances and proms

- Health Education Curriculum - educating students as to the dangers of drugs, alcohol , internet safety and cyber bullying.

Safe School Practices
(Cont'd)

- District wide protocol for all classroom doors to remain in a locked position

- Provide additional portable radios for use during outside activities to enhance communication

- Off site evacuation and parent reunification areas for each school

- Conducted drills during unconventional times (Lunch/Recess)

- Upgraded the schools' public address systems by adding additional speakers

- Pilot program to enhance school safety by installing security vestibules, surveillance cameras and swipe card entry doors.

Stakeholders

Board of Education

Parents and Students

Teachers/Staff

School Administrators

PTA Representatives

Campus Police Officers/Security Staff

CHPD/CHFD

Community