

West Windsor – Plainsboro Regional School District



2016-2017 Violence and Vandalism Report

Mission Statement

Building upon our tradition of excellence, the mission of the West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District is to empower all learners to thoughtfully contribute to a diverse and changing world with confidence, strength of character and love of learning.

Week of Respect Activities

October 2-6, 2017

- The week of October 2nd – 6th was designated as the **Week of Respect** in accordance with the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights. School districts throughout the state are required to observe the week by providing age appropriate instruction focusing on preventing **Harassment, Intimation or Bullying**.

Elementary Activities

Morning Announcements: The theme of Respect will be highlighted each morning during announcements.

World Bullying Prevention Day

- Making a list of people you think are respectful and why you added them to your list
- Write a definition of respect

Discuss why acting respectful is important during your morning meeting

List 5 ways we can show respect for the environment.

Win-win guideline posters will be placed in every classroom.

Each class will recite and sign an anti-bullying pledge.

Grade level anti-bullying presentations.

The school counselor will continue to present lessons concentrated on conflict resolution, friendship and acceptance.

Teacher read-alouds respect.

Bus Buddies Programs.

Elementary Activities

Upper Elementary Schools

Mix-It-Up-Day

Superheroes of Kindness

School Spirit Day

Character Ed Assemblies

Question of the Week

- What does bullying show about respect for others? What does it show about how much self-respect the bully has for him or herself?

Middle School Activities

Announcements were made daily with anti-bullying quotes each day along with reminders of activities.

Monday (10/2): Blue Pinky Promise

Objective: Kick off Week of Respect – raise awareness by pinky promising to take a stand against bullying.

Activity: Ms. Peters and student volunteers set up a table in the Commons during lunches where students and staff got their pinky nails painted blue to symbolize a “pinky promise” to take a stand against bullying.

Tuesday (10/3): Wear Blue

Objective: To join in solidarity to fight against bullying.

Activity: Staff and students wore blue.

Wednesday (10/4): 2nd Floor Chalk Project

Objective: Share messages of support and hope along with the message that help is available.

Activity: Student volunteers wrote positive messages using chalk outside during recess.

Thursday (10/5): Grade Level Assemblies

Objective: Improve school climate, promote accountability and create awareness.

Activity: “If Not Me, Then Who” assemblies for each grade level.

Friday (10/6): Anti-Bullying Pledge

High School Activities

- Morning announcements: This week is the Week of Respect in New Jersey; schools everywhere are taking steps to help students feel comfortable and safe. Each day this week we will announce a quote to raise awareness about the importance of respecting yourself and others.
- **Monday** – “Respect for ourselves guides our morals, respect for others guides our manners”
- **Tuesday** – “It is not our purpose to become each other; it is to recognize each other, to learn to see the other and honor him for what he is”
- **Wednesday** – “When you are content to be simply yourself and don’t compare or compete, everybody will respect you”
- **Thursday** – “Try to leave the Earth a better place than when you arrived”
- **Friday** – “One of the most sincere forms of respect is actually listening to what another has to say”

■

Definition of HIB

“Any gesture, any written, verbal or physical act, or any electronic communication, whether it be a single incident or a series of incidents, that is reasonably perceived as being motivated either by any actual or perceived characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or a mental, physical or sensory [handicap] disability, or by any other distinguishing characteristic, that takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function [or], on a school bus, or off school grounds as provided for in section 16 of P.L.2010, CHAPTER 122, that substantially disrupts or interferes with the orderly operation of the school or the rights of other students“

Evidence of HIB:

The student knowingly engaged in racist, homophobic, or other stereotyping behavior with the specific objective of hurting, intimidating or harassing another student

The student knowingly engaged in behavior with the specific objective of hurting, intimidating, or harassing another student

The student knowingly engaged in harassing, intimidating, or bullying behavior but was not aware of the potential negative impact on the victim

The student unknowingly engaged in harassing, intimidating, or bullying behavior and had no awareness of the potential negative impact on the victim

The student was “showing off” with friends or reacting to a personal (emotional) situation, and the victim was arbitrarily and impulsively targeted

The student engaged in harassing, intimidating, or bullying behavior in direct response to a real or imagined threat initiated by the other student

The student engaged in behavior that may be considered inappropriate, rude, disrespectful, or unkind, but the behavior does not violate school HIB guidelines

The student did not engage in any behavior which meets the definition of HIB. Student has been cleared of any actionable offense.

The student was a victim of an HIB incident.
OR The student was not a victim of an HIB incident.

Factual Findings

Intentional (with hate speech) and designed to harass, intimidate, or bully

- **Intentional (without hate speech) and designed to Harass, intimidate or bully**

Intentional, but not designed to harass, intimidate or bully

Unintentional

Unrelated

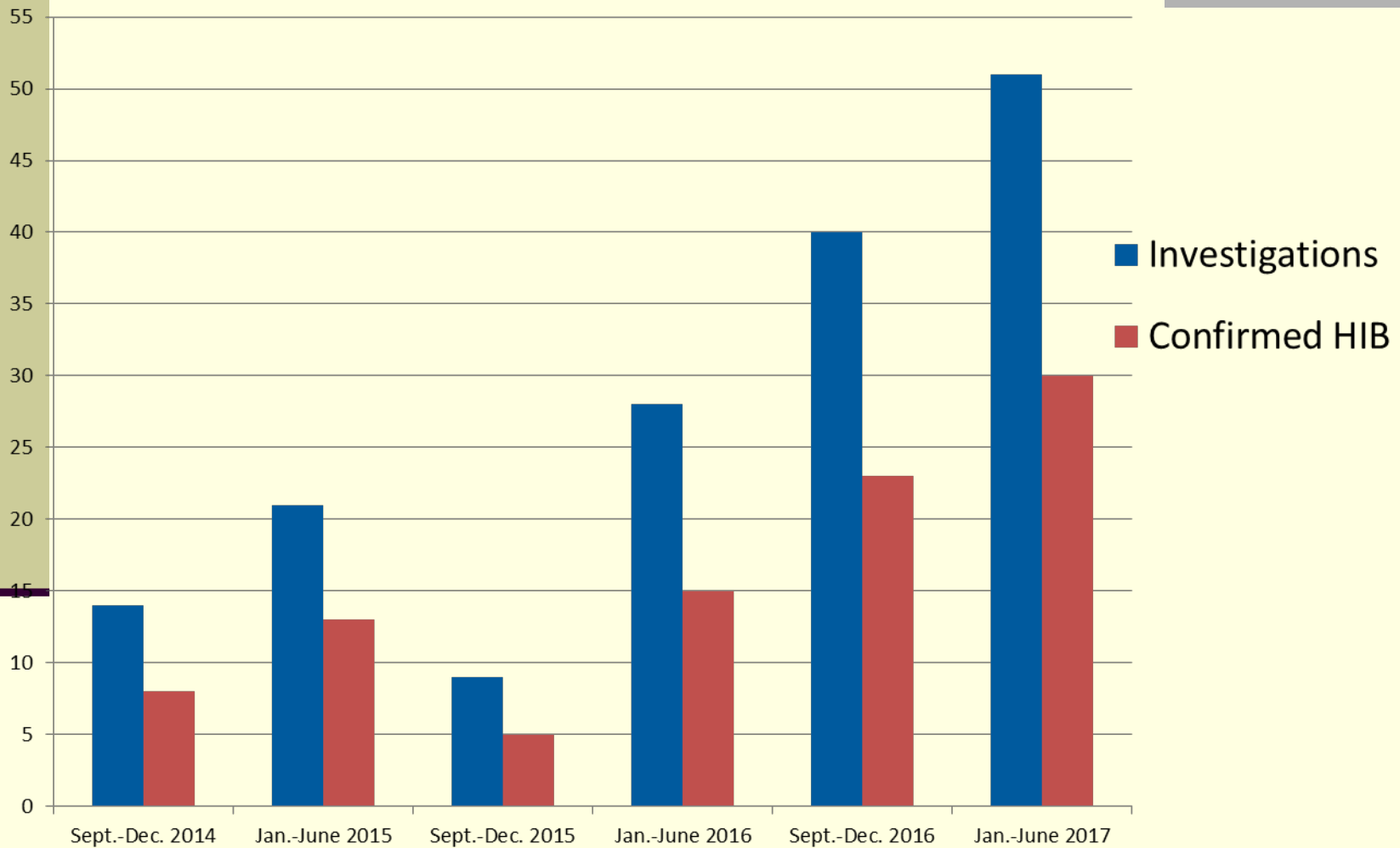
Self-Defense / Retaliation

Non-Actionable HIB

Non-HIB

HIB-Victim

WW-P Investigations/ Confirmed HIB Sept. 2014-June 2017 (3 Year Timeline)



HIB: Patterns & Trends

- Unstructured Activities
- Minimally Supervised Settings
- Social Media
- Hate Speech – Race, Religion & Gender Identity
- Increase in Investigations
- Increase in Parent Reporting

Count of Incidents by Reporting Category

	<u>15-16</u>	<u>16-17</u>
HIB	20	51
Violence	30	23
Vandalism	10	6
Weapons	2	0
Substance abuse	8	10
Total	70	90

Incident Category Totals by School

(Middle Schools & High Schools)

School Name	Violence	Vandalism	Weapons	Substance Abuse
Community Middle School	5	1	0	1
Grover Middle School	6	0	0	2
High School North	5	2	0	2
High School South	5	2	0	5
Total	21	5	0	10

*Does not include elementary

Cost of Vandalism

	<u>15-16</u>	<u>16-17</u>
Incidents involving cost to district	0	0
Total cost to district	\$0	\$0

Victim Information

	<u>15-16</u>	<u>16-17</u>
Regular education student	28	11
Student with a disability	6	4
Student from other school	0	0
Non-student	0	0
School personnel	1	0
Total	34	15

Offender Information

	<u>15-16</u>	<u>16-17</u>
Regular education student	60	49
Student with a disability	28	14
Student from other district	0	0
Non-student	0	0
Unknown	0	0
Total	88	63

In-District Activities To Recognize School Violence and Vandalism Awareness Week

Elementary

- **Crisis Action Team will meet to review and update all safety drill plans and procedures. Practice drills will take place throughout the school year. This includes lockdowns, active shooter, bomb threat, and evacuation drills.**
- **Developmental guidance lessons will be taught by the guidance counselor throughout the kindergarten and third grade classrooms. Morning meetings will be initiated and various topics will be included such as peacemaking skills and conflict resolution skills.**
- **Review ideas for School Violence Awareness Week with staff at the faculty meeting.**
- **A student anti-bullying/respect assembly sponsored by the PTA will be held in October.**
- **Guidance lessons on respect/tolerance/empathy during the month of October.**
- **Morning share sessions with staff members on responsive classroom techniques/strategies used in the classroom to prevent bullying and to promote community.**
- **Counselor lessons on conflict resolution, anti-bullying, friendship and acceptance.**

In-District Activities To Recognize School Violence and Vandalism Awareness Week

Upper Elementary

- Lesson ideas regarding safety will be shared with teachers.
- Teachers may sign-up for the principal, assistant principal, or guidance counselor to complete a read-a-loud in their classrooms. The staff member who visits the class will bring a story to read to the class pertaining to being aware of others and facilitate a discussion regarding its themes.
- The school's "Question of the Week" will prompt students to reflect on matters relating to being aware of how their actions impact others.
- Guidance lessons will be completed in classrooms throughout the month of October.
- Lesson ideas will be sent to teachers that build on the Respect Lessons facilitated by Counselors during "Week of Respect."
- Quotes regarding awareness and respect of others will be read over the morning announcements each day of the week.
- Daily challenges will be announced each morning urging students to be agents of change with regard to safe, kind, courteous and respectful behaviors.

In-District Activities To Recognize School Violence and Vandalism Awareness Week

Middle School

- Daily announcements that teach warning signs for potential violence. Bulletin board decorated with School Violence Prevention Theme.
- Challenge of the Day: #SaySomething Kind and Encouraging and make others feel included - Reach the Un-reached (make a new connection today and get to know someone you do not know)
- Challenge of the Day: Identify two trusted adults (let two adults in the building know that you trust them and can confide in them)
- Daily Quotes will be read on morning announcements. Teachers are encouraged to utilize a flex and/or class time for reflection on the quote(s).
- 6th Grade ABS will provide lessons through 6th Grade Computer Cycle in advance of SVAW to address preventing and dealing with Cyber-bullying.
- “If Not Me, Then Who” will be held to reiterate the character messages from both weeks. A Service Day will be established.

In-District Activities To Recognize School Violence and Vandalism Awareness Week

High School

Morning Announcements with teacher email for infusion into classroom discussion

Pledge Cards

I WILL pledge to make my school welcoming to all

I WILL set the example of a caring individual

I WILL reach out to my fellow Pirates who need a helping hand

I WILL pledge to encourage others to do the same

I WILL eliminate offensive words from my language

I WILL not let my words or actions hurt others

...and if others won't become part of the solution, I WILL

_____ signature

Signing here reflects your commitment to this pledge

Pirate Positivity -- Student Project of positive affirmations and quotes in the lunch lines and PE locker rooms

Announcements daily with quotes and a challenge similar to WoR

Peer Leaders will also host a table at lunch where students can sign a banner that will read "Help shield away violence."

Proactive Programs for Student Development

- School counselors/Anti-bullying Specialists
- Counseling Curriculum
- Student Assistance Counselors (6-12)
- Assembly Programs
- Peer leaders
- Character Education Programs
- Many clubs and organizations will be promoting programs about aspects of students' social and emotional development

Current Administrative Focus

- Review of Student Code of Conduct Annually
- Implementation of the State Mandated Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Policy
- Review of the District Crisis Plan
- Focus on Strategic Goals