
West Windsor – Plainsboro Regional School District



2012-2013 Violence and Vandalism Report

Mission Statement

WW-P is committed to providing all students with a safe learning environment that is free from harassment, intimidation, and bullying (HIB). This commitment is an integral part of our comprehensive efforts to provide learning, and to prevent and eliminate all forms of HIB through the following practices: adhering to the 2011 New Jersey Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights legislation; training all staff to identify, report, and address HIB behaviors in a timely fashion; and proactively educating parents, students, Board of Education members, and the community to establish HIB expectations and the communication of our commitment to safety and respectful behavior for all.

Week of Respect Activities

October 7-11, 2013

- The week of October 7th – 11th 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

IT TAKES A WHOLE SCHOOL TO STOP BULLYING!

- **Monday - Anti-Bullying Pledge** – All Students will recite this pledge during morning announcements. Teachers will be provided a copy.
- **Tuesday – Students/Staff wear YELLOW** to school which is the color that represents Respect. During announcements read, *It Starts With Me* by Naomi Drew.
- **Wednesday** – All students **sign a large ruler** which is centrally located. This represents "**following the Golden Rule – Treat Others the way You Want to be Treated**"
- **Thursday – You Belong Poem** by Naomi Drew read over morning announcements.
- **Friday – Choice of writing or drawing activity.** Students can choose to write or draw about Showing Respect for Others, Showing Respect for Themselves or Showing Respect for the Environment.

- The character education themes for September and October are respect and teamwork. These will be incorporated throughout lesson plans, counselor visits and school wide activities. Announcements will be made throughout the month to incorporate this theme as well promoting PEACE, VIOLENCE AWARENESS and RESPECT. Each month a different character theme is celebrated. Some additional themes include: Respect for Self and Others, Respect for Earth/Citizenship, Courtesy and Good Manners, Individuality, Friendship, Responsibility, Honesty, Perseverance and Caring. School wide activities pertaining to each month's theme will be implemented this year.

- *Responsive Classroom* lessons will be taught by the guidance counselor and the classroom teachers throughout the kindergarten and third grade classrooms. Morning meetings will be initiated and various topics will be included such as peacemaking skills, and respect for self and others.

- Students will sign a class anti-bullying pledge.

Middle School Activities

Community Middle School:

- Wear Purple and Pledge Respect
- IF NOT ME THEN WHO? (Wear patriotic colors)
- Mix-it-Up and High Five!
- Cultural Awareness Day
- Respect UNITY in CommUNITY! (Wear black and red colors)
- Students will sign their commitment to be:
 - Positive
 - Accepting
 - Noble
 - Thankful
 - Empathic
 - Respectful
 - Supportive

Middle School Activities

Grover Middle School

- Monday – Respect yourself and others (purple)
- Tuesday - Respect differences/diversity (rainbow)
- Wednesday – Respect our country USA (Patriotic attire- red, white, blue, or military attire where applicable)
- Thursday – Respect Cultural Heritage Day (wear/display items that reflect your unique cultural heritage)
- Friday – Respect the Greatness of Grover! Jaguar UNITY! (Black & Gold, or jag spots! Grover team attire!)
- Students to sign banner/pledge—The Greatness of Grover;
 - **Jaguars....**
 - **A**ccountable
 - **G**rateful
 - **U**nderstanding
 - **A**ccepting
 - **R**espectful, Responsible, Ready
 - **S**upportive!!!

High School Activities

High School North

- Peer Leaders will make announcements each day “challenging” students to show respect in a specific way on that day.
- Monday – Show respect to your fellow classmates today.
- Peer Leaders will hold a table at lunch for students to sign a “Respect” banner.
- Peer Leaders will present information gathered from classroom discussions with Juniors and Seniors regarding school culture to the faculty at the October Faculty meeting on Oct. 7.

High School Activities

High School South

- During the Week of Respect, we will kick off our yearly initiative “Be A Pirate”. Each month will pose a new challenge looking like this:
 - **B**e Calm and compliment on
 - **E**ncourage others
 - **A**ppreciate all that you have
 - **P**ay it forward
 - **I**nclude all
 - **R**espect all
 - **A**wareness of Substance Abuse
 - **T**hink before you send
 - **E**nthusiasm is contagious....pass it on!
- On Tuesday, at lunch, a group of students will Flash Mob the commons to the song “Respect”, by Aretha Franklin. Our goal in this fun activity is to gain attention and conversation in the beginning of the week so that students are aware of the Week of Respect.

High School Activities

High School South (continued)

- Student made posters will be displayed around the commons pertaining to themes of bullying and respect.
- Daily Challenge: ‘Throughout the day, think of our wonderful custodial staff. Think of all they do for our school, much of the time when we are not even here. Think before you leave something for someone else to clean up or pick up after you. Make the extra effort starting today to clean up after yourself.

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

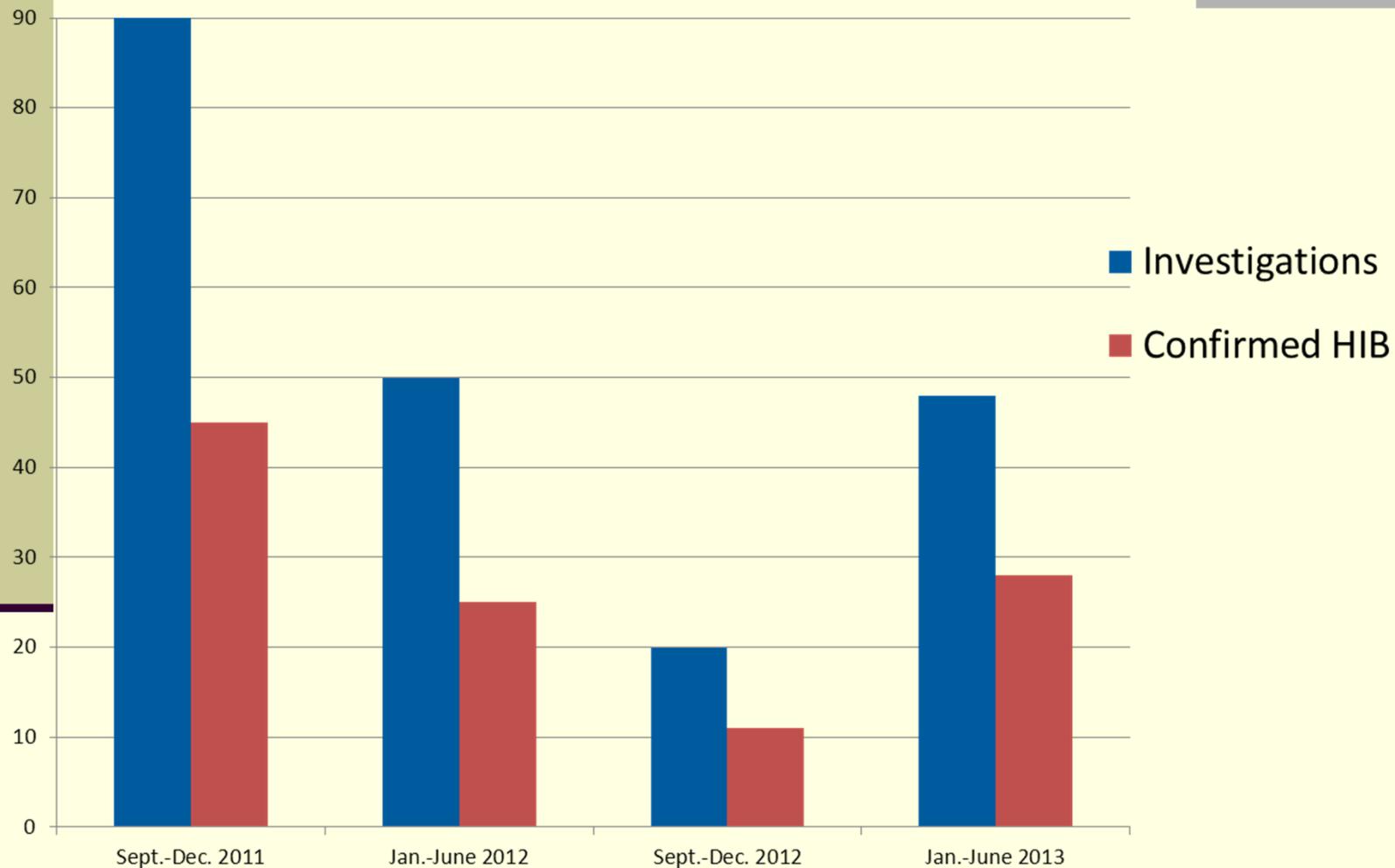
Self-Defense / Retaliation

Non-Actionable HIB

Non-HIB

HIB-Victim

WW-P Investigations/ Confirmed HIB September 2011-June 2013



HIB: Patterns & Trends

- Males as Offenders
- Special Education Students
- Playground / Bus / Cafeteria Incidents
- Texting / Facebook / Online Cases
- Unstructured Activities
- Minimally Supervised Settings

Recommendations

- Increased Training and Awareness for Bus Drivers, Aides & Coaches
- Monitoring of K-12 Guidance Curriculum
- Promotion of Responsive Classroom
- Continual Use of Pro-Active Programs
- Peer to Peer Education and Discussions

Count of Incidents by Reporting Category

	<u>11-12</u>	<u>12-13</u>
HIB	72	27
Violence	10	24
Vandalism	9	13
Weapons	2	2
Substance abuse	22	14
Threat	1	0
Total	43(116)	80

Incident Category Totals by School

(Middle Schools & High Schools)

School Name	Violence	Vandalism	Weapons	Substance Abuse
Community Middle School	2	3	0	0
Grover Middle School	0	0	0	0
High School North	9	4	1	3
High School South	6	6	1	11
Total	17	13	2	14

Cost of Vandalism

	<u>11-12</u>	<u>12-13</u>
Incidents involving cost to district	0	0
Total cost to district	\$0	\$0

Actions Taken

	<u>11-12</u>	<u>12-13</u>
Police notified (no complaint)	17	19
Police notified (complaint filed)	3	14
Expulsion	0	0
Removal to alternative programs	0	1

Victim Information

	<u>11-12</u>	<u>12-13</u>
Regular education student	50	30
Student with a disability	21	11
Student from other school	1	0
Non-student	0	0
School personnel	1	4
Total	73	45
Victim of violent criminal offense	1	1

Offender Information

	<u>11-12</u>	<u>12-13</u>
Regular education student	31(77)	55
Student with a disability	22(56)	27
Student from other district	0	0
Non-student	0	0
Unknown	0	0
Total	53(133)	85

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

Grades K-3

- Character themes for the month include respect, teamwork and community
- Crisis teams met to review plans and procedures
- Morning quotes and read aloud books focused on positive character.

Grades 4-5 Teachers & Counselors Facilitating:

- Classroom group discussions regarding antiviolenace, bullying and building a safe community. Themes for each day include: promoting respect and tolerance, managing your anger, don't let it manage you, resolving conflicts peacefully, supporting safety and uniting in action. Bullying lessons featuring poetry, suggested reading, anti-bullying pledge.

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

Grades 6-8

- Developmental guidance groups to cover topics such as stress management, bullying, and security.

- Police Program on the Dangers of Social Media
 - GMS—guest speaker from the WW Police Department. Students prepared ‘thank you’ banner for the WW Police.

 - CMS—guest speaker from the Plainsboro Police Department. Students prepared ‘thank you’ banner for the Plainsboro Police Department.

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

High School North:

- Peer Leaders will create a ‘theme’ for each day of the week and will play a music medley in the morning that goes along with the theme.
- Peer Leaders will create posters with different statistics about school violence which will be hung up throughout the school.
- Teachers will be given information and mini lessons that relate to the message and statistics that they can use for discussion in classrooms.
- Students will create a short PSA that will incorporate all their efforts to be shown to students at the end of the School Violence Awareness Week.

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

High School South:

- South will have a quote each morning followed by a question pertaining to bullying and school violence.
- A group of student volunteers will go into study halls to discuss the questions and lead a discussion. This is designed to address the topic and get students involved, but not take time away from classroom lessons.
- Continuing with the BE A PIRATE initiative, each month every teacher will receive a Peaceful Pirate Wristband to distribute to a student they see demonstrating that challenge during the month.

Proactive Programs for Student Development

- School counselors/Anti-bullying Specialists
- 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
- Implementation of the State Mandated Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Policy
- Review of the District Crisis Plan