



IRVINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Office of the Superintendent

Dr. Neely Hackett
Superintendent

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**Superintendent's Report
August 16, 2017**

HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, AND BULLYING (HIB) ANNUAL REPORT 2016-2017

Bullying represents a serious problem across the nation. Bullying incidences in schools contribute significantly to high rates of student absenteeism, a reduction in student academic achievement, and low staff morale. The following statistics taken from four (4) nationwide surveys document the serious and pervasive nature of the bullying problem in our nation's schools.

- 30% of students in grades six through ten are involved in moderate or frequent bullying either as bullies, as victims, or both.
- 1 out of 5 youth admit to being a bully or a bystander.
- 77% of students said they had been bullied and 14% said they experienced severe reactions to the abuse.
- 8% of students miss 1day of class per month for fear of bullies.

In comparison to the aforementioned statistics, the rates of occurrence for incidences of Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying (HIB) in the Irvington Public Schools are exceedingly low.

1. Analysis of Reports Submitted

School	Enrollment as of 6/30/2017	Number of Substantiated Cases	Number of Unsubstantiated Cases	Percentage of Substantiated Incidences Based on Student Enrollment	Total Cases Reviewed
Augusta Preschool	324	0	1	0%	1
Berkeley Terrace	502	0	0	0%	0
Chancellor Avenue	474	0	0	0%	0
Florence Avenue	635	0	0	0%	0
University Elementary	532	0	4	0%	4
Grove Street	486	0	0	0%	0
Madison Avenue	324	0	0	0%	0
Mt. Vernon Avenue	567	0	1	0%	1



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Thurgood Marshall	425	0	0	0%	0
University Middle	663	1	0	0.1%	1
Union Avenue Middle	674	0	0	0%	0
Irvington High School	1,235	0	6	0%	6
Blue Knights Academy	35	0	0	0%	0
Total	6,876	1	12	0.01%	13

2. Status of Reports

- 13 Cases were reviewed district-wide compared to 20 in the 2015-2016 school year
- 1 Case was substantiated compared to 3 in the 2015-2016 school year
- 12 Cases were unsubstantiated compared to 17 in the 2015-2016 school year

All of the 13 cases were investigated by the Anti-Bullying Specialist in each school and reviewed by the building Principal according to mandated guidelines. All report findings were subsequently submitted to the Office of the Superintendent where they were reviewed by the District Anti-Bullying Coordinator and the Superintendent of Schools as per mandate.

During the course of the 2016-2017 school year, the Superintendent of Schools has reported the findings to the Board of Education and the parents of the students involved, according to the mandated timelines and in the manner delineated by the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights.

3. Location of Incidents

A majority of the incidents reviewed are reported to have taken place in the hallway.

4. General Themes

A review of the HIB reports submitted reveals the predominant theme of physical characteristics. The nature of the incidents were in the form of verbal threats and physical/electronic communication. The identification of this theme will guide district-wide responses and protocols as a means of developing and implementing prevention programs.

5. Training

Training has been conducted for all administrators at the district level. All school-based personnel have been trained at their home schools. Trainings have also been conducted for district substitutes. Guidance Counselors and Health and Social Services Coordinators conducted small groups, individual counseling sessions, and grade level appropriate classroom prevention lessons utilizing the district-approved Bully-Busting curriculum.



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6. School Safety Teams

School Safety Teams are operational in each school building. Ongoing training is offered to School Safety Team Leaders (by the Anti-Bullying Specialist). Monthly reports submitted by School Safety Teams are reviewed by the Anti-Bullying Coordinator to identify items for action planning.

7. Week of Respect

The Week of Respect was observed throughout the district during the first week of October in accordance with HIB regulations. Activities are tailored toward meeting the developmental levels of the students as well as the unique needs of each school.

8. Reporting

The district submitted bi-annual reports for all substantiated cases of Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying via the Electronic Violence and Vandalism Reporting System (EVVRS) as mandated by the State of New Jersey in accordance with the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Law.