

Cherry Hill School District

Annual Violence, Vandalism, Weapons and Substance Abuse Report *2009-2010 School Year*

Presented to the BOE on October 12, 2010

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Introduction

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 2009-2010 school year. The types of incidents reported during the school year are listed under the heading of the four major categories.

- Violence
- Vandalism
- Weapons
- Substance Abuse

The report also tracks the trend of incidents that have occurred over a ten year period. Upon reviewing the report, it is important to recognize that Cherry Hill School District has developed a comprehensive reporting system that extends far beyond the states reporting requirements. The tracking of reported incidents, over an extended period of time, has proven to be a more accurate assessment in an effort to identify trends of disruptive behavior that tend to be repetitive.

The report is formatted to reflect the following segments:

- Introduction
- Executive Summary
- Recent Safe School Initiatives implemented 2009-2010
- Current Programs and Practices

Introduction

(CONTINUED)

- Graph reflecting a ten year trend of Total Incidents Reported
- A Data Summary Report reflecting the total number of incidents reported during a ten year period
- Overview of Total Incidents Reported for the previous two years
- Overview of incidents reported in the Violence Category for the previous two years
- Overview of incidents reported in the Vandalism Category for the previous two years
- Overview of incidents reported in the Weapons Category for the previous two years
- Narrative section reflecting the number of Substance Abuse incidents involving Use and Possession
- Narrative section displaying Total Action Taken in regards to incidents Referred to Police, Family Court, and School Suspensions
- Review of the school district's Safe School Initiatives
- Acknowledging Team Players

Executive Summary

Although this year's Violence Report reflects no increase in the total number of incidents reported as compared to the previous school year, the number of incidents listed in the Violence Category has increased. (An explanation for the increase in this category is provided in the in the Violence Category narrative section of this report.) Incidents reported in the remaining categories of Weapons and Vandalism have declined and there was no increase in the number of incidents listed under the Substance Abuse Category.

Overall, the number of incidents reported during the past five years reflects a downward trend. This can be attributed to Safe School Initiatives and preventive measures. The Safe School Initiatives which are listed in the body of this report have been a contributing factor and a positive influence in promoting an effective Safe School Program for the Cherry Hill School District. We recognize that no single initiative is responsible; rather, any progress relative to our Safe School Program results from a combination of initiatives instituted throughout the years. We remain committed to focusing our energies and resources on preventive measures. We firmly believe that a proactive approach to school safety is the basic foundation for establishing a safe learning environment where students and school staff can feel safe and direct their efforts to achieving academic goals.

On behalf of the members of the Board of Education and the Cherry Hill School District, I wish to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to parents, guardians, local Public Safety Officials, PTA representatives, and to members of the community for all your support and cooperation throughout the school year. I also wish to acknowledge the efforts of our school administrators, school staff, and Campus Police Officers for their devoted commitment to provide a safe learning environment for our school community. Your dedicated service to the school district has been instrumental in fostering a productive and safe educational environment for our students and school staff.

Recent Safe School Initiatives

For 2009-2010

Update and review security measures with administrative staff:

- Gang Awareness
- School Security Drills
- Critical Incident Response Guidelines
- Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Policy
- Internet Safety and Cyber Bullying
- Annual In-Service School Security Review with School Staff to include Teachers Aids, Substitutes, Maintenance Staff, Custodial Staff, Food Service, School Administrators and Faculty
- Memorandum of Agreement for Schools and Law Enforcement
- Review Passive Alcohol Sensor Program with Administrators and Faculty
- Police Training Exercise Conducted at both high schools
- Applied for and received a grant to purchase three laptop computers for School Police
- Continue the Station House Adjustment Program for minor offenses
- Update the District's Crisis Management Manual in regards to School Security Drills, Evacuation Plans and Bomb Threats

Recent Safe School Initiatives

For 2009-2010

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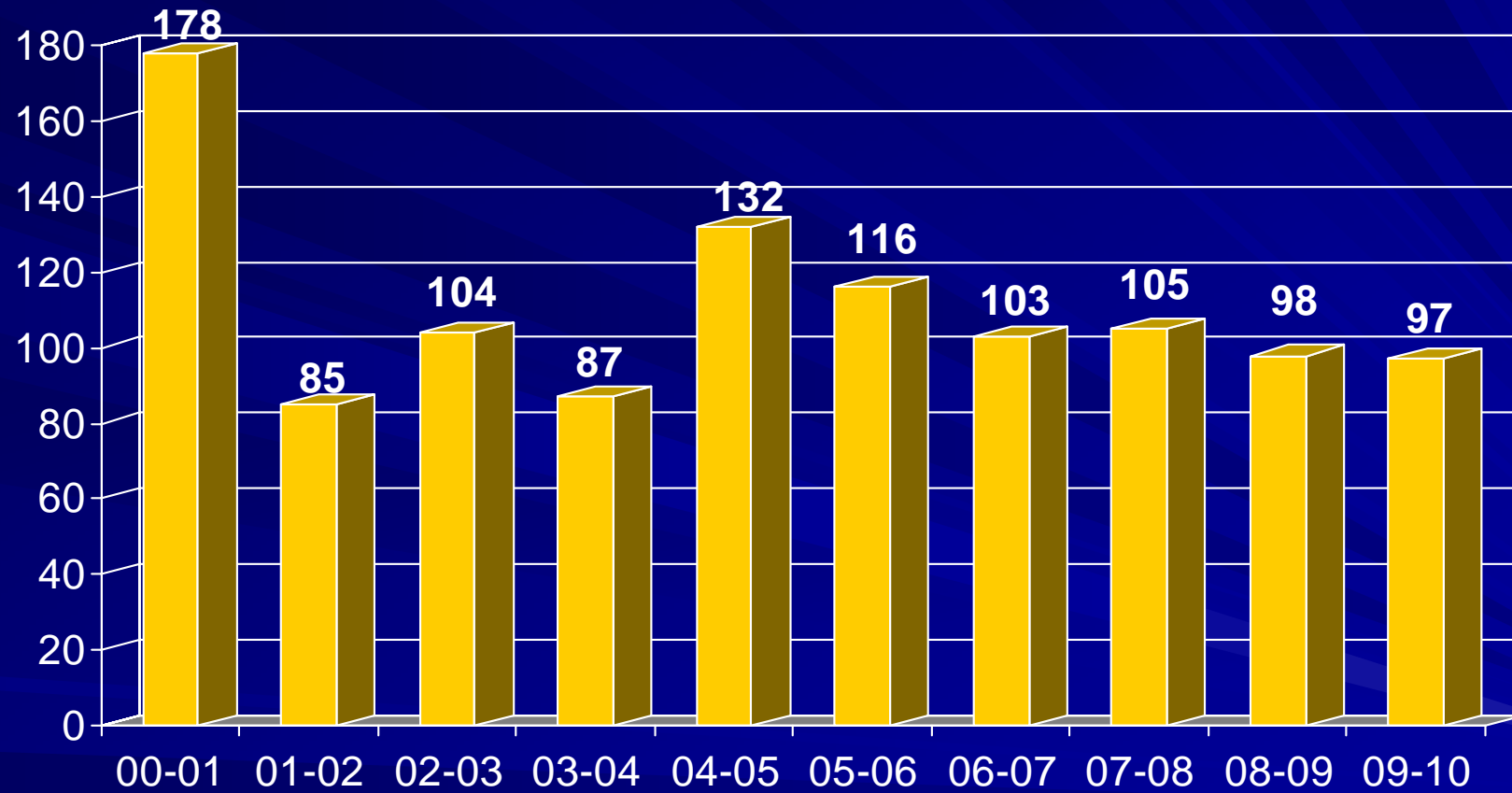
- A Police presentation on bullying was produced on a DVD and distributed to all middle schools; in addition, this presentation was broadcast on CHPS TV.
- Internet access to CHPD informational network and data file
- Police, fire and EMS conducted a critical incident table top exercise with school administrators
- Door numbers were installed on all the school buildings interior and exterior doors
- Annual School Security Check-List distributed to all Principals
- Update Administrators on the Revisions to the Department of Education's Vandalism and Violence Reporting System
- Additional security cameras installed at the high schools

Current Programs & Practices

- Door Key Management System
- Strong partnership with local and county public safety officials
- Mutual sharing of information with law enforcement officials
- Strong emphasis on Character Education
- Continued School Resource Officer Program at the high schools
- Passive Alcohol Sensor Program at the high schools
- Station House Adjustment Program
- Parents, Students, and School Staff received training on the dangers of the Choking Game
- District Notification System
- School Violence Awareness Week commemorated in schools. Police are invited to schools to kick-off School Violence Awareness Week and present classroom discussions on school safety
- Student Code of Conduct
- Memorandum of Agreement
- Visitors Greeting Program at the high schools
- Access Control System at the middle and elementary schools
- Student and Staff photo ID's
- School Supportive Assistants Program at the high schools
- Peer Mediation Program
- Megan's Law notification guidelines
- Zero Tolerance for weapons and substance abuse offenses
- Principals performed the required school security drills at their schools

Total Incidents

Ten Year Trend



Cherry Hill School District Data Summary Report - 2000 to 2010

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
TOTAL INCIDENTS	178	85	104	87	132	116	100	105	98	97
VIOLENCE	103	38	52	33	70	36	45	40	40	50
* Harassment/Intimidation/Bullying				* 8	* 12	* 5	* 8	* 6	*5	24
Simple Assault	27	10	22	9	17	11	18	12	19	10
Aggravated Assault	8	2	3	2	1	1		5	2	1
Fight	34	11	10	1	30	16	12	9	10	8
Gang Fight										
Robbery	1									
Extortion										
Sex Offense	12	3	2	2	1	1		4		1
**Threats	**21	**12	**15	**11	**6	**2	**6		**4	6
**Terroristic Threats					**3		**1	**4		
**** <i>Bias incidents</i>					1	3	1	1		
**** <i>School Staff</i>	5	1	2	1	3			3	3	
VANDALISM	48	22	27	20	31	27	24	19	29	26
Arson	2	1						2		2
***Bomb Threats				***2	***2	***2	***2	***1		
Burglary	1	1	1	1		1	1	1		
Damage to Property	14	5	11	5	16	14	9	7	13	10
Fireworks Offense	4	1	1	2	3		1	1		
Theft	25	12	10	8	10	8	11	4	15	13
Trespassing	2	2	4	2		2		3	1	1
**** <i>Bias Incidents</i>	1				4			2	5	
**** <i>School Staff</i>	1	1				2		1	4	

*Effective 2003-2004 school year School Districts are required to report incidents of Harassment/Intimidation & Bullying.

** Effective 2008-2009 Threats and Terroristic Threats are all reflected under the Threat Category.

*** Effective 2003-2004 school year, Bomb Threats were reclassified from the Weapons Category to the Vandalism Category

****Bias Incidents and School Staff are not included in Total Numbers

Cherry Hill School District Data Summary Report - 2000 to 2010

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
WEAPONS	10	8	9	9	3	4	6	5	10	2
*** Bomb Offense	*** 4	*** 3	*** 1							
Possession of Firearm	1	2		1		1	2			
Assault Firearm										
Assault Other Weapons	2								3	
Possession Other Weapons	3	3	8	8	3	3	4	5	6	2
Sale Other Weapons									1	
**** <i>Bias Incidents</i>										
**** <i>School Staff</i>										
SUBSTANCE ABUSE	17	17	16	25	28	49	25	41	19	19
USE		2	8	16	16	37	18	32	16	12
(Alcohol)			3	1	3	16	4	6	2	1
(Marijuana)		2	5	12	12	19	12	24	13	11
(Other)				3	1	2	2	2	1	
POSSESSION	16	15	7	7	12	10	7	7	2	7
(Alcohol)	2	1			5	2	1		1	
(Marijuana)	11	12	5	7	7	6	4	5	1	6
(Other)	3	2	2			2	2	2		1

*** Effective 2003-2004 school year Bomb Threats were re-classified from the Weapons Category to the Vandalism Category

****Bias Incidents and School Staff are not included in Total Numbers

Cherry Hill School District Data Summary Report - 2000 to 2010

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
DISTRIBUTION	1		1	2		2		2	1	
(Alcohol)										
(Marijuana)	1			2		2		1	1	
(Other)			1					1		
Total Estimated Cost to District of Vandalism	1,100	8,901	5,700	3,895		28,319.70	8,276.00	20,000.00	8,916.00	
Total Number of Vandalism Incidents Involving Cost to District	5	5	7	4		29	6	7	7	
TOTAL ACTION TAKEN										
Police Notified No Complaints Filed	85	26	71	35	57	34	42	39	35	36
Police Notified and Complaints Filed By Police	65	53	33	26	42	35	26	32	34	32
Expulsion	15	4	1	4		4	1		2	
*** In-School Suspension	4	6	8	10	16	19	1	7	17	6
Out of School Suspension	158	60	86	77	131	117	106	125	83	52
Other Action	6	6	4		10	4	3	6		8
Out of District								3		

*** The number of School Suspensions applies only to incidents listed in this report.

Total Incidents Reported

2008/2009 – 2009/2010 Overview

In 2009-2010 school year, there was no increase in total incidents reported compared to the previous school year.

Last year, a total of 97 incidents were reported in comparison to 98 reported during the 2008-2009 school year. The total number of incidents reported for each year are listed under the heading of the four major categories depicted below.

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>2008/2009</u>	<u>2009/2010</u>
Violence	40	50
Vandalism	29	26
Weapons	10	2
Substance Abuse	19	19
TOTAL	98	97

Violence Category

2008/2009 – 2009/2010 Overview

	<u>2008/2009</u>	<u>2009/2010</u>
Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying	5	24
Simple Assault	19	10
Aggravated Assault	2	1
Fighting	10	8
Threats	4	6
Sex Offense	0	1
TOTAL	40	50

Violence Category

2008/2009 – 2009/2010 Overview

The number of incidents reported under the Violence Category reflects an increase compared to the prior school year. There were 50 incidents reported this year compared to 40 incidents reported the previous year. The increase is primarily attributed to the number of Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying (HIB) incidents that were reported under the Violence Category. There were 24 HIB incidents, 10 Simple Assaults, 1 Aggravated Assault, 8 Fights, 1 Sex Offense and 6 Threats.

The types of behavior reported within the scope of HIB incidents include Bias Incidents, Inappropriate Touching, Bullying Behavior, Cyber Bullying and Sexting. Schools are required to document bona-fide incidents of HIB behavior which are classified under the Violence Category. The administration has initiated proactive measures in an effort to deal with reports of HIB behavior.

- A comprehensive HIB policy
- In-Service training for school staff
- Anti-Bullying classroom presentations involving police as guest speakers
- Special efforts to focus on HIB during School Violence Awareness Week

Although the report reflects an upswing of total incidents reported under the Violence Category, it is noteworthy that there was also a decrease in the number of physical altercations reported.

Vandalism Category

2008/2009 - 2009/2010 Overview

- Last year, there was a slight decrease in the number of incidents reported under the Vandalism Category. There were 26 incidents reported in comparison to 29 the previous year.
- The two Arson incidents involved a trash dumpster on school grounds and the exterior front doors to a building. Both incidents occurred during off-school hours.
- The Trespassing incident involved a former student.

	<u>2008/2009</u>	<u>2009/2010</u>
Arson	0	2
Bomb Threats	0	0
Burglaries	0	0
Property Damage	13	10
Fireworks	0	0
Theft	15	13
Trespassing	1	1
TOTAL	29	26

Weapons Category

2008/2009 - 2009/2010 Overview

- There was a decrease in the number of weapon incidents reported last year compared to the previous year. Last year, two incidents were reported in comparison to ten incidents the previous year.
- There were no reports of assaults associated with weapons last year.

	<u>2008/2009</u>	<u>2009/2010</u>
Assaults Involving Weapons		
- Ink Pen	1	0
- Comb Pick	1	0
- Air Soft Gun	1	0
Possession of Weapons		
- Folding Knife	3	1
- Box Cutter	0	0
- Utility Knife	1	1
- Air Soft Gun	2	0
- Sale of an Air Soft Gun	1	0
TOTAL	10	2

Substance Abuse Category

2008/2009 - 2009/2010 Overview

Nineteen incidents of Substance Abuse were reported last year. The same number of incidents were reported for the previous year.

- **Alcohol:**

One incident involved a student found to be in possession and under the influence last year in comparison to two incidents reported the previous year. The incident occurred on school grounds during school hours.

There were no alcohol related incidents reported at any of the school sponsored events.

- **Marijuana:**

There were 17 incidents reported last year compared with 15 incidents the previous year.

Eleven students were reported to be under the influence compared with 13 students the previous year.

Six students were found to be in possession of marijuana last year compared with one incident the previous year.

There were no incidents reported that involved the distribution of marijuana or any form of a controlled dangerous substance.

Substance Abuse Category

2008/2009 - 2009/2010 Overview

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The following programs have been instrumental in educating students with regard to the dangerous effects of alcohol and drugs.

- **Passive Alcohol Sensor Program**
Program administered at the high school dances and proms
- **Health Education Curriculum**
Educating students as to the dangerous effects of drugs and alcohol
- **Character Education**
Teaching students to be responsible young adults
- **Referrals to SAC**
Students referred to counseling staff
- **Earlier Intervention Programs**
Drug Screening Program

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 No Referral to Family Court:**

36 incidents were documented on a police report. Consequences for inappropriate behavior were administered by the school but not referred to family court.

- **Incidents Reported to Police and Referred to Family Court:**

32 incidents were reported.

- **In-School Suspension:**

6 students were assigned to the In School Suspension Program for committing minor school infractions.

- **Out of School Suspension:**

52 students were suspended out of school for committing serious school infractions.

- **Other Action:**

8 students received long term suspensions or were referred to other in-district programs.

School Comparisons

The School Comparisons Chart consist of a list of suburban schools that are similar in demographics to Cherry Hill School District and the community. The rational for researching this data is to identify if the trends of behavior and the frequency of occurrence in other school districts is consistent with those encountered in the Cherry Hill School District. Based on the research data, Cherry Hill Schools appear to compare favorably with other school districts throughout the region.

2001/2002						
School District	Population	Violence	Vandalism	Weapons	Substance Abuse	Total
Cherry Hill	11,267	38	24	5	17	84
District A	N/A	71	41	4	17	133
District B	N/A	146	26	10	26	208
District C	N/A	50	24	8	60	142
District D	N/A	90	26	9	17	142
District E	N/A	172	26	4	55	257

2002/2003						
School District	Population	Violence	Vandalism	Weapons	Substance Abuse	Total
Cherry Hill	11,370	52	28	8	10	98
District A	9,727	111	35	7	22	175
District B	11,391	113	33	10	28	184
District C	13,096	36	17	13	48	114
District D	12,920	135	21	7	15	178
District E	10,285	141	25	4	25	195

School Comparisons

2003/2004						
School District	Population	Violence	Vandalism	Weapons	Substance Abuse	Total
Cherry Hill	11,557	33	19	9	24	85
District A	9,618	106	33	7	16	162
District B	11,450	123	22	6	17	168
District C	13,185	13	20	0	43	76
District D	13,180	108	15	9	10	142
District E	10,340	156	14	11	74	255

2004/2005						
School District	Population	Violence	Vandalism	Weapons	Substance Abuse	Total
Cherry Hill	11,768	70	31	3	28	132
District A	9,618	62	20	10	17	109
District B	11,450	170	13	9	30	222
District C	13,185	8	25	4	42	79
District D	13,180	162	34	12	5	213
District E	10,340	147	19	9	95	270

2005/2006						
School District	Population	Violence	Vandalism	Weapons	Substance Abuse	Total
Cherry Hill	11,775	36	27	4	49	116
District A	9,276	70	31	10	17	128
District B	13,331	15	28	4	38	85
District C	10,895	167	18	5	22	212
District D	10,238	156	126	5	86	373
District E	13,473	40	30	27	14	111

School Comparisons

2006/2007						
School District	Population	Violence	Vandalism	Weapons	Substance Abuse	Total
Cherry Hill	11,529	46	24	6	27	103
District A	9,052	91	20	6	13	130
District B	13,208	19	21	4	46	90
District C	10,714	179	15	9	17	220
District D	10,119	152	26	5	57	240
District E	13,431	63	22	20	45	150

2007/2008						
School District	Population	Violence	Vandalism	Weapons	Substance Abuse	Total
Cherry Hill	11,544	40	19	5	41	105
District A	8,932	50	26	2	19	97
District B	13,015	9	14	1	54	78
District C	10,483	157	7	10	23	197
District D	10,142	187	29	5	96	317
District E	13,359	79	19	9	32	139

2008/2009 data has not been released by the State DOE

In Review...

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
- Strong partnership with local and county public safety officials
- Annual review of the district's Crisis Management Plan
- Continuation of the School Resource Officer Program for the high schools
- Continuation of the School Supportive Assistance Program at the high schools
- Classroom presentations and discussion on the topic of bullying
- Visitor Greeting Program at the main entrance to the high schools
- Student and Staff Photo IDs
- Electronic monitoring systems at the high schools
- Passive Alcohol Sensor Program

In Review...

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- Peer Mediation Program
- Megan's Law Notification Protocol
- Zero Tolerance for all Weapons and Substance Abuse offenses
- Continuation of School Safety Drills
- Memorandum of Agreement for schools and law enforcement
- Annual school security check list
- Access control system at the elementary and middle schools
- Maintain the school district's alarm code system for designated employees
- In-service training exercise with school staff, police, fire, and EMS

Safety and Security

Community Partnership and Team Effort

- Local Public Safety Officials
- PTA Representatives
- Members of the Community
- School Administrators
- School Staff
- Campus Police Officers
- Parents and Students