

Violent and Disruptive Incident Reporting and Calculating the School Violence Index

New York State Board of Regents

P-12 Education Committee

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Agenda

- o Calculating the School Violence Index
 - o New York State
 - o New York City
- o New York State Safe Schools Task Force Recommendations
 - o Development of a Statewide School Climate Index
 - o Revamping of School Violence Index
- o Next Steps

Why use a School Violence Index?

- o No Child Left Behind (2001) requires that states establish a statewide policy that identifies persistently dangerous schools.
- o Safe Schools Against Violence in Education (2000) and the Dignity for All Students Act (2010) require that schools complete the School Safety and Educational Climate report, which is comprised of:
 - o Violent and Disruptive Incident Report (VADIR), and
 - o Dignity for All Students Act (DASA) Report.

What is the NYS School Violence Index?

School Violence Index (SVI):

- o The SVI is used to identify Persistently Dangerous schools each year.
- o The SVI is a ratio of violent incidents to school enrollment and is determined by the number of incidents and the seriousness and type of incidents.

Category	Description	No. of Incidents
1	Homicide (100)	0
2.1	Forcible Sex (60)	0
2.2	Other Sex (45)	2
3	Robbery (40)	0
4	Assault w/ Serious Physical Injury (40)	0
5	Arson (30)	2
6	Kidnapping (30)	0
7	Assault w/ Physical Injury (30)	7
8	Reckless Endangerment (25)	5
9	Minor Altercation: Contact, no injury (0, 25 w/weapon)	28
10	Intim., Harass., Menacing and Bullying (0, 25 w/weapon)	21
11	Burglary (0, 25 w/weapon)	0
12	Criminal Mischief (0, 25 w/weapon)	6
13	Larceny or other Theft Offenses (0, 25 w/weapon)	1 (with weapon)
14	Bomb Threat (0)	0
15	False Alarm (0)	0
16	Riot (0, 25 w/weapon)	0
17.1	Weapons Possession (confiscated/entry screening) (15)	1
17.2	Weapons Possession (found/other circumstances) (15)	1
18	Use, Possession or Sale of Drugs (0)	1
19	Use, Possession or Sale of Alcohol (0)	1
20	Other Disruptive Incidents (0)	25

Calculating SVI Example:

SVI Calculation for
Educationville
Middle School

Enrollment = 400

What is the SVI?

(Category
Weight)*(No. of
Incidents)=(SVI
Points per
Category)

Add SVI Points for
all Categories.

(Total SVI
Points)/Enrollment
=SVI

Answer: 1.35

New York City SVI Calculation

- o NYC schools report incidents in the Online Occurrence Reporting System (OORS) using the Discipline Code infraction categories.
- o Central staff from the Office of Safety and Youth Development read all incidents and categorize them per VADIR.
- o The sum of the weighted incidents is divided by the October 31st register.
- o The quotient is the SVI.

New York City The Student Safety Act

- o Requires the New York Police Department to report quarterly to the NYC Council:
 - o Number of incidents involving student arrests, and
 - o Number of summonses issued to students.
- o Provides City Council with data to study the impact of disciplinary practices and to encourage the use of more effective strategies and policies.

New York City Challenges

- VADIR categories have the same names as penal code language.
- NYCDOE and NYPD have different reporting requirements.

New York City Recommendations

- o Consider changing the category names so that the names no longer cause confusion with criminal usages.
- o Continue to explore other ways of measuring school climate to give a more holistic representation of school building environment.

NYS Safe Schools Task Force Actions

Date	Activity
January 2013	Board of Regents re-established the Safe Schools Task Force
May 8, 2013	Kick-off Meeting
November 14, 2013	Full Task Force Meeting with Workgroups Established
January – April 2014	Workgroups met to Develop and Refine Preliminary Recommendations
February 20, 2014	Student Forum Held to Hear the Students' Perspectives on Promoting Safe and Healthy Schools
June 2014	Full Task Force Met to Refine and Prioritize Recommendations
September 2014	Task Force Recommendations Presented to the Board of Regents
October 2015	Presented to the Board of Regents an update in regard to the implementation status of each recommendation

Safe Schools Task Force Recommendations

- o Align and combine the reporting mechanisms for VADIR and DASA.
- o Examine other federal and state required data to develop a single comprehensive model data reporting system.
- o Greater technical assistance to schools on data collection, use and reporting.
- o Create a statewide School Climate Index to measure school building environments.

Proposed Changes to VADIR/DASA

- o Reduce the number of categories reported to:
 - o Bomb Threat
 - o False Alarm
 - o Homicide
 - o Material Incidents of Discrimination, Harassment, and Bullying with no physical injury
 - o Physical Injury
 - o Sexual Offenses
 - o Use, Possession, or Sale of Drugs
 - o Use, Possession, or Sale of Alcohol
 - o Weapons Possession
- o Revise the reporting application to combine VADIR and DASA reporting requirements

Measuring School Climate using a School Climate Index (SCI)

1. **School Climate Surveys** -implement evidenced-based, valid and reliable surveys to:

- o Students
- o Parents/Guardians
- o School Personnel

2. **VADIR/DASA categories** be revised and included in the SCI

The current School Violence Index would be revised and refined. The VADIR and DASA incident reports would be aligned.

3. **Chronic Absenteeism** - Attendance data will be used to capture chronic absenteeism at the student level and at the building level.

Next Steps

1. Amend the Commissioner's Regulations to revise the current twenty categories to nine in accordance with the New York State Safe Schools Task Force Recommendations.
2. Revise the electronic application used to collect VADIR and DASA data from schools to reflect the amended regulations.
3. Work with the New York State Center for School Safety to expand the availability of technical assistance and professional development to support this work, and conduct monitoring and site visits to ensure the accuracy of reporting
4. Pilot the School Climate Index in approximately 12 school districts in the 2016-17 school year and make changes and improvements, as necessary.

