

Report of the Superintendent
SAFE SCHOOLS ASSESSMENT REPORT

In an effort for the Superintendent to supply information to the School Committee and the public regarding school safety and the Administration's effort to create a safe learning environment for all, the following materials and presentations are provided in this report:

District-Wide Safe Schools Initiatives

Individual School Initiatives

District Incident Report: 2006 – Present

Safe Schools Policy (ADD)

Alcohol & Drug-free Schools Policy

Presentation on Middle School Student Behaviors: 2006 – Present

Presentation on High School Discipline Trends: 2004 – 2009

The administrative actions being implemented in the District are focused on ensuring our schools achieve a high degree of safety for all students. These efforts include:

- ◆ Annual review of safety plans with police and fire chiefs in both towns
- ◆ IS100 and IS700 NIMS training of all school-level administrators
- ◆ Security systems in all schools
- ◆ Common coding system to track students during an emergency
- ◆ Handbook revisions
- ◆ Cataloging of school chemicals
- ◆ Community Initiatives – Groton Dunstable Alliance for Youth (GDAY)
 - 2008 Youth Risk Behavior Survey
 - Curriculum Half Day Programs

School Initiatives

The following represents initiatives that align with District-wide efforts occurring at each school. These initiatives are presented in four categories:

1. Security
2. Education
3. Community Partnerships
4. Procedures/Protocols

ALL DISTRICT SCHOOLS:

Security:

- All doors are locked during the school day
- All visitors are buzzed in and must sign in at the main office
- Formal procedures for fire drills, preventative lock downs and crisis lockdowns are in place and are practiced
- The Crisis Management Team meets regularly both as a team and with representatives from the Police and Fire Departments
- Teachers and Paraprofessional accompanying students outside of the classroom (i.e. recess duty or staying on school ground, but leaving the school building) carry radios to assure contact with main office and the school nurse should it be necessary

FLORENCE ROCHE & SWALLOW UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS:

Security:

- Parent sign-out children at pick-up/dismissal everyday

Education:

- Open Circle program
- Child Assault Program (CAP) for first graders
- Morning Meetings in classrooms
- Guidance visits classrooms and offers lunch groups
- High School Peer Leaders visit 4th Graders

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOLS:

Community Partnerships:

- Working with parents as partners
- YRBS Survey participation
- GDAY monthly meetings with Middle and High School students with several of these sessions focus on discussions around alcohol/drugs
- Dunstable and Groton Police Departments
- Community Outreach to support service providers

Specific School Initiatives

BOUTWELL / ECC

Education:

Boutwell is implementing the Al's Pals curriculum, an effective early childhood curriculum and teaching approach. Al's Pals: Kids Making Healthy Choices is a nationally recognized, resilience-based early childhood curriculum and teacher training program that develops social, emotional and behavioral skills in children 3 to 8 years old. The Al's Pals interactive lessons and teaching approaches help young children to:

- Reinforce positive social skills
- Express feelings appropriately
- Use kind words
- Care about others
- Use self-control
- Think flexibly
- Accept differences
- Make friends
- Solve problems peacefully
- Cope in positive ways
- Make safe and healthy choices
- Understand that tobacco, alcohol, and illegal drugs are not for children

FLORENCE ROCHE

Education:

- Comprehensive Classroom Guidance Lessons for all grades (26 classrooms)

MIDDLE SCHOOL

Education:

- Health and Wellness Classes include drug/alcohol awareness education
- Entire school assembly held the opening week showing a motivational panoramic film presentation on the dangers of drugs/alcohol
- Cyber Bullying Assembly with MARC Program
- Grade 5 DARE Program
- Trauma Response Team (procedure to handle loss of student or staff member)

Procedures/Protocols:

- Yearly review of the Parent-Student Handbook with input from faculty and student council
- Development of "Common Chapters" with the High School to assure consistency across the District on the most serious matters

- Drug and Alcohol Policy is outlined in the Middle School Parent/Student Handbook, including definitions and a clear outline of the consequences for any incident involving alcohol/drugs
- Development of Restorative Consequences including:
 - Peer Mediation
 - Meeting with guidance counselors
 - Meeting with the school psychologist
 - Meeting with the school social worker
 - Student Support Team

HIGH SCHOOL

Security:

- After school coaches, the Athletic Director and the Trainer are available to all fields via radio contact
- Video camera system used for monitoring inside and outside

Education:

Classes: Career and Life Management
Health
Transitions

Programs: School-wide Advisory Program
Peer Leaders
Peer Mediators
Student Against Destructive Decisions
Participation in the county's Community Based Justice System

Activities: Call to Excellences
Seasonal Parent, Student Coaches Meetings
SADD Week
Guest Speakers
Handbook Review Committee
Leadership Team

Procedures/Protocols:

- Yearly review of the Parent-Student Handbook
- Development of "Common Chapters" with the Middle School to assure consistency across the District on the most serious matters.
- Development of Restorative Consequences including:
 - Community Service
 - Peer & Administrative Mediation
 - Teacher / Student Meetings
 - Student / Teacher agreed reparation
 - Meeting with Guidance Counselors
 - Meeting with the school psychologist and/or school social worker
 - Student Support Team
 - Meeting with the Drug and Alcohol Counselor

DISTRICT INCIDENT REPORT: 2006- Present

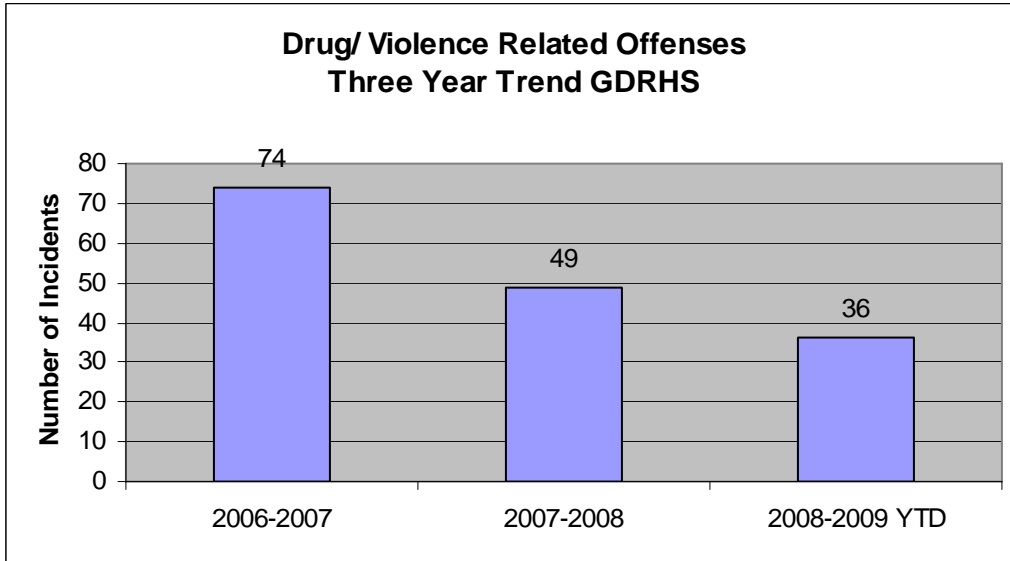
The following report shows the three year trends in violence and drug related incidents which are reported to the DOE in the annual SSSR – School Safety and Discipline Report. The current year information was obtained through lpass by running the SSSR report. Previous year information was obtained from DOE.

The following table shows all the drug and violence related incidents reported by the High School to the DOE, whether or not the incident resulted in a suspension.

High School

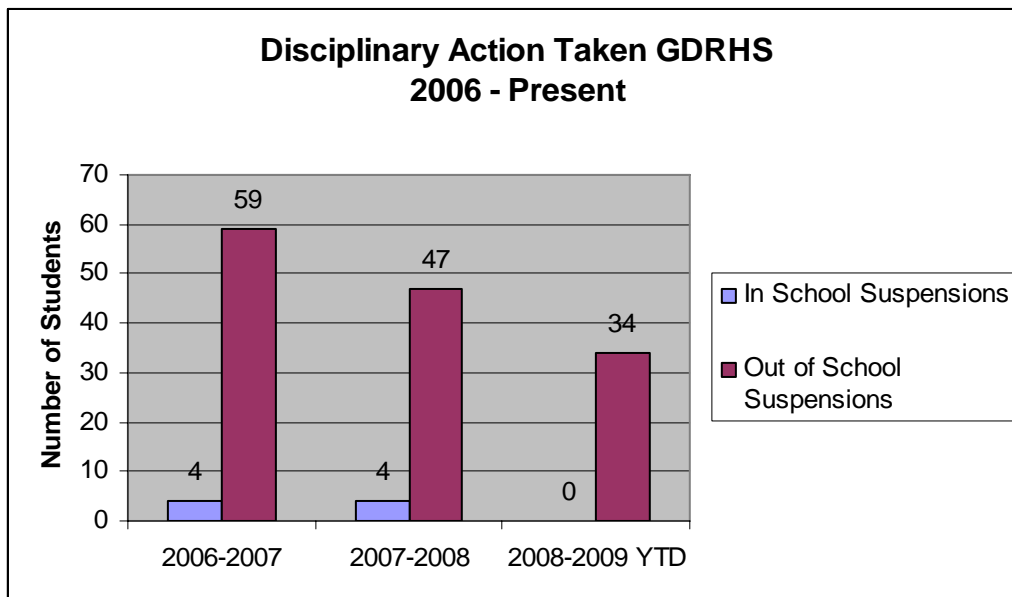
	2006- 2007	2007- 2008	2008- 2009 YTD
*Illegal use of other substances (describe):	1	0	0
*Possession of other illegal substances (describe):	3	0	3
Alcohol possession	3		0
Alcohol use	10	9	7
Explosive or incendiary device	5	0	0
Knife (cutting weapon)	1	1	1
Marijuana possession	9	0	0
Marijuana use	2	1	2
Other violence, drug or criminal incident (Please specify)	5	0	0
Other weapon (describe):	1	0	0
Physical attack, assault (non- sexual)	3	6	0
Physical fight	3	4	3
Possession of illegal drugs with intent to sell	2	0	0
Sale of illegal drugs	1	0	0
Sexual Harassment	0	8	4
Theft (school, staff or student property)	3	3	6
Threat of physical attack	3	1	0
Tobacco use (cigarettes, cigars, pipes or smokeless tobacco)	19	16	0
Vandalism/Destruction of Property	0	1	1
Total	74	49	36

Aggregated Data



Disciplinary Action Taken

This graph shows the three year trends for disciplinary actions taken for drug or violence related offenses at the High School:

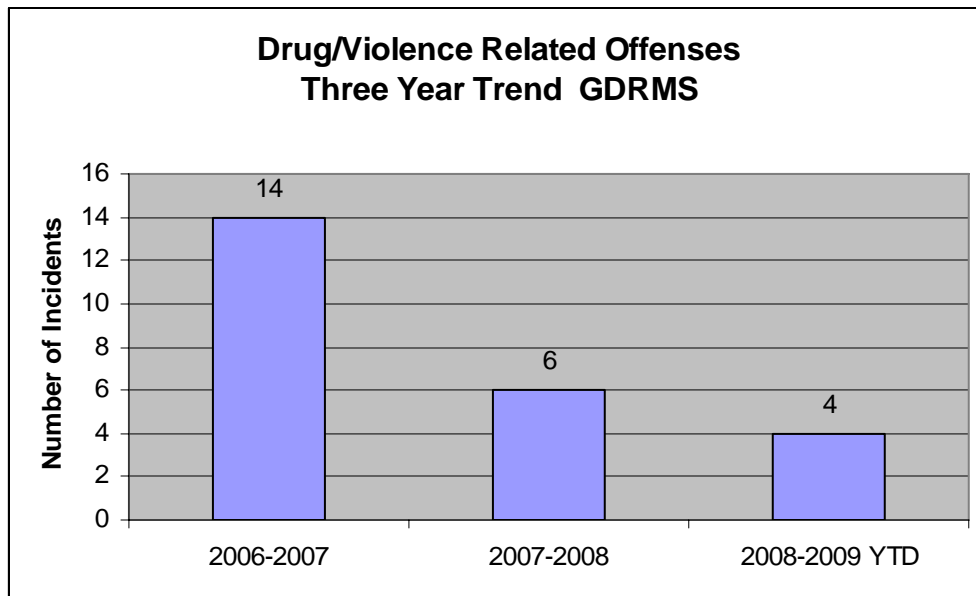


Middle School

The following table shows all the drug and violence related incidents reported by the Middle School to the DOE, whether or not the incident resulted in a suspension

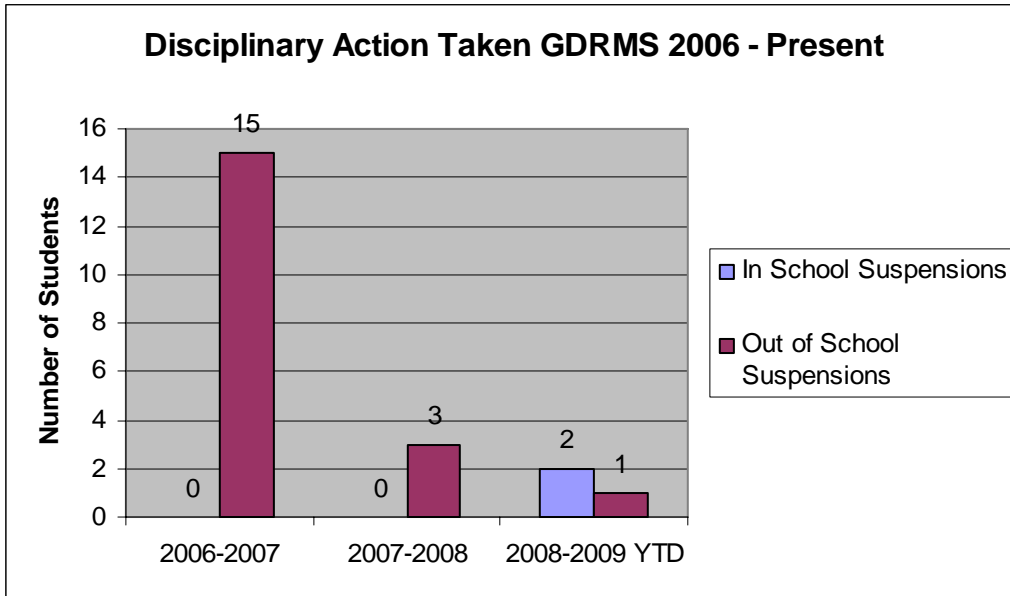
	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009 YTD
Physical attack, assault (non-sexual)	5	1	
Physical fight	1	1	4
Sexual Harassment	4	1	
Threat of physical attack	2	1	
Vandalism/Destruction of Property	2	1	
Marijuana Possession		1	
Total	14	6	4

Aggregated Data – Middle School



Middle School

This graph shows the three year trends for disciplinary actions taken for drug or violence related offenses at the Middle School:



Elementary

During the reporting period there were no drug or violence related incidents at the elementary schools, although there were 5 suspensions reported to the DOE during the period.

	2006-2007	2007-2008	2008-2009 YTD
Boutwell	1		
Swallow Union	1		
Florence Roche	1	1	
Prescott	1		
Total	4	1	

Conclusion

In analyzing the data, it is reasonable to conclude that the District is seeing a significant decline in the number of suspensions and detentions in the last two years. The Superintendent suggests that the efforts of the school administration to intervene and address inappropriate behaviors in a measureable, consistent manner is achieving the intended results.

Table of Offenses Reported to DOE

Description
Tobacco use (cigarettes, cigars, pipes or smokeless tobacco)
Alcohol possession
Alcohol use
Marijuana possession
Marijuana use
Possession of other illegal substances
Illegal use of other substances
Sale of illegal drugs
Possession of illegal drugs with intent to sell
Physical fight
Threat of physical attack
Physical attack, assault (non-sexual)
Sexual Harassment
Sexual assault (including rape)
Theft (school, staff or student property)
Threat of robbery
Robbery using force
Vandalism/Destruction of Property
Destruction of Property due to arson
Kidnapping
Homicide
Knife (cutting weapon)
Gun
Handgun
Rifle
Shotgun
Other Fire Arm
Explosive or incendiary device
Other Weapon
Other violence, drug or criminal incident
Felony Conviction Outside of School
Does not apply. Not a violence or drug related offense.

SAFE SCHOOLS POLICY

I STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND COMPLIANCE

- A. This policy is adopted by the Groton Dunstable School Committee as required by M.G.L. C. 71 & 37H, for purposes of notifying members of the public, students, teachers and other staff of the District's Standards and Procedures to assure school building security and safety of students and school personnel. This policy is intended to be in accordance with standards for classroom safety adopted by the Board of Education pursuant to M.G.L. c. 69, & 1B which standards are incorporated by reference herein.

II STANDARDS OF SAFETY AND SECURITY

- A. The community shall encourage the creation and maintenance of a safe and secure learning environment in every school building. The creation of a safe learning environment will be enhanced by the provision of sufficient resources for procurement and maintenance of appropriate safety personnel and devices.
- B. Administration, staff and students in each school building shall strive to create an educational environment which is reasonably safe and secure in order to:
- 1) Facilitate learning and teaching
 - 2) Preserve the physical and mental well being of all lawful occupants of the building

III PROCEDURES TO MEET STANDARDS

A. ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION

- 1) The Superintendent shall cause to be undertaken an assessment of current safety standards and procedures.
- 2) The assessment of current standards and procedures will be accomplished by the Superintendent, building principals and other district personnel who shall review current practices with appropriate police contacts, the school districts' insurer and district counsel in addition to other parties whom the Superintendent and building principals determine to have relevant information.
- 3) The Superintendent or his or her designee shall collect, review and disseminate an assessment report of current safety standards to the same individuals consulted during the information gathering process and to the School Committee.
- 4) The parties receiving the assessment report shall promptly review the report, meet, confer and make recommendations to the Superintendent and Committee as to necessary changes to the existing safety and security practices of the district.
- 5) The Superintendent shall issue a final report to all individuals involved in the assessment of

current safety practices.

- 6) The process of assessing safety and security procedures shall be continuous and a formal assessment as outlined in steps A 1 through 5 above shall occur not less than once every three years.

B. COMMITTEE ACTION

- 1) The Committee shall review the Superintendent¹'s final report and discuss its contents with the Superintendent and other district administrators prior to making any changes to existing policies or procedure by duly recorded vote.
- 2) Prior to adopting recommendations or changes to existing policy the Committee shall receive from the Superintendent or his or her designee an estimate of the costs, if any, associated with the implementation of the policy change or recommendation.
- 3) Upon adoption of amended or new safety policies the Committee shall cause a copy of the policy and standards to be forwarded to the Board of Education.
- 4) The Committee shall annually, as part of its budget process, identify safety and security needs and request appropriations for maintenance of safety or security personnel, devices or equipment for all school buildings.

Factors to be considered in making requests for appropriations for safety and security devices, equipment and personnel may include but are expressly not limited to the present system of advising students and staff of safety concerns, placement in school buildings of security devices such as, for example, locking doors, cameras, metal or motion detectors and other devices to monitor or restrict access to school buildings; increased use of personnel such as attendance or security officers, lighting, escort services for evening activities, placement of emergency telephones in designated locations, practices related to the regular inspection of and reporting on the condition of the premises, design or architectural features which advance or inhibit safety, procedures for maintaining an ongoing process for reporting complaints to local law enforcement officials and procedure for reference and criminal records checks of employees.

ALCOHOL & DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS

Statement of Purpose

This policy is adopted by the Groton-Dunstable Regional School Committee for the purpose of encouraging the creation and maintenance of an alcohol and drug-free school environment. We believe that a comprehensive approach to achieving this requires a focused effort by parents and all school personnel in four areas: education, intervention, enforcement, and community partnerships.

The school committee fully supports the ongoing efforts to educate students about the risks of alcohol and drug use. These efforts should include awareness programs, information training for staff and community leadership, curriculum development and infusion, social marketing for health promotion, correcting misperceptions of perceived norms, peer education, and student leadership.

The school committee also supports early intervention strategies including counseling and support groups, educational groups, and student outreach.

The school committee supports enforcement efforts to keep drugs and alcohol off school property at all times. To this end, the school committee authorizes the use of unannounced drug and alcohol detection programs including, but not limited to, canine searches of school buildings and grounds.

Finally, the school committee supports and encourages community partnerships to jointly address the risks associated with alcohol and drug use.

Action Steps

- 1) The Superintendent shall cause to be undertaken a formal assessment of current practices and procedures regarding support for an alcohol and drug-free school environment not less than once every three years. This assessment should be seen as a significant component of the district's safe schools assessment (policy ADD/EBCF), and the Superintendent is encouraged to engage all school administration, staff, town officials, or community groups or other individuals that may have relevant information.
- 2) The assessment should include, but not be limited to, an analysis of both current practice and the current environment within the schools and community.
 - a. Review of current practice would include all elements of the school districts' Environmental Management Strategy: education programs, early intervention strategies, community/school coalitions, policy, and enforcement efforts.
 - b. Review of the current environment should include any quantitative data surrounding drug & alcohol availability & use by students from a variety of sources: student surveys, school incident reports, and relevant police data.

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- 3) The Superintendent shall present this assessment report to the School Committee, along with any recommendations for strategy or policy modification. Cost estimates, if any, should also be included with these recommendations.
- 4) The School Committee shall review and discuss the assessment, and act on any recommendation in a timely manner.
- 5) The Superintendent shall issue a final report to all individuals involved in the assessment and to the entire community.

Adopted 2/16/2005