



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

A Memo from the New Jersey Department of Education

Date: October 22, 2020
To: Chief School Administrators, Charter School and Renaissance School Project Leads
Route To: School Principals, District Homeroom Administrators, Data Coordinators, Anti-Bullying Coordinators
From: Peggy McDonald, Ed.D., Assistant Commissioner
Division of Student Services
Deadline: January 31, 2021

Student Safety Data System Opening

The Student Safety Data System (SSDS) is open for reporting for the 2020-2021 school year. The SSDS collects incidents of violence, vandalism, weapons, substance use, and harassment, intimidation and bullying (HIB), as well as HIB trainings and programs conducted to support anti-bullying efforts. The report Period 1 Submission due date is January 31, 2021.

COVID-19 Update

Districts are reminded that incidents and HIB trainings and programs that occur while schools are operating virtually should be entered in the SSDS. The Department recognizes that in accordance with the [Restart and Recovery guidance](#) issued to date, districts may have updated their discipline policies to reflect remote and/or hybrid learning models. When reporting removals to the SSDS, districts should consider whether the student was removed completely from instruction for disciplinary reasons, which would likely constitute an out-of-school suspension, or whether a student was removed for disciplinary reasons but was still able to access instruction via remote learning, which would likely constitute an in-school suspension.

Access to the SSDS, along with online resources to support data submission, are available on the [Student Safety Data System webpage](#).

Questions concerning the SSDS should be directed to ssds@doe.nj.gov.

c: Members, State Board of Education
Angelica Allen-McMillan, Acting Commissioner of Education
NJDOE Staff
Statewide Parent Advocacy Network
Garden State Coalition of Schools
NJ LEE Group