

New Jersey Department of Education School Self-Assessment for Determining Grades under the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights District and School Grade Report

The Rockaway Borough Schools and District's HIB Grades for the 2019-2020 school year from the New Jersey Department of Education were released June 29, 2021. Grades indicate that the district exceeds or meets the requirements of the Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Laws with this year's overall scores once again showing for both schools. The items below detail our progress and plans over the past several years.

- Beginning with the 2011-12 school year, Rockaway Borough has conscientiously implemented the requirements found in the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act by assigning personnel, implementing policy and procedures and notification of parents.
- During the initial years of implementation of the Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act, we have addressed and improved harassment, intimidation and bullying as well as school climate and culture through more relevant staff trainings, by providing varied resources and feedback to parents, the appointment of personnel, and setting up more streamlined reporting and investigative procedures especially in regards to anonymous reporting.
- While completing the Self-Assessment, we learned that our school district has demonstrated continued strength in the following areas: program initiatives that span the district, staff training, interaction between members of the joint School Safety teams and community partners, and frequent collaboration between key HIB personnel.
- The Self-Assessment helped our district to identify areas of improvement in regards to the investigative and reporting process as well as to the analysis of individual school data to drive programming and reduce incidences of HIB. In addition, we have identified a need to offer more relevant programming and educational opportunities not only for our students, but also for both parents and the surrounding community.
- During the upcoming school year, our district will continue to develop a school culture in both schools that prioritizes the social-emotional well-being of every student. We will continue to integrate social-emotional learning and programming into our classroom instruction and the curriculum in all grades K-8.
- The District has partnered with the Thrive Alliance Group to support students, staff, and families in mental wellness. The training, coaching, and professional development services will enable teachers and Child Study Team members to learn how to address

the SEL and mental health needs of their students and staff. The District will be forming two mental wellness teams to help improve the overall mental health of our school community. Both the elementary and middle school will have their own mental wellness team.

- The District will have a full time school counselor at the elementary school.
- In addition, the district will be implementing Responsive Classroom in all second grade classes and is planning to train staff in Responsive Classroom in additional grade levels at the elementary school. The District is still planning to add an advisory period at the middle school level to further develop a positive school culture and climate. This was delayed due to COVID-19. We are going to continue our School Wide Positive Behavioral Support Programs to support a positive school culture. The district's school counselors will continue to provide relevant services to students as well as coordinate all HIB related programming and incidents on the elementary and middle school level.