TO: Chief School Administrators
Charter School Lead Persons

FROM: David C. Hespe
Acting Commissioner

SUBJECT: Release of Report on Violence and Vandalism in New Jersey Schools

Today the Commissioner’s Annual Report to the Education Committees of the Senate and General Assembly on Violence and Vandalism and Substance Abuse in New Jersey Schools for the 2013-14 school year was publicly released.

For the third year, data on both incidents of harassment, intimidation and bullying (HIB) and state and district efforts to reduce and prevent HIB are documented in the report. Three-year trends are positive, and there has been a sizeable increase in the number of HIB prevention trainings and programs offered by schools throughout the 2013-2014 school year compared to previous years.

A comparison of the data over the past two years shows that the total number of incidents reported by districts decreased by 2,003 incidents (9 percent) from 21,170 in 2012-13 to 19,167 in 2013-14. HIB incidents declined by 16 percent; smaller decreases were reported in the other categories: Violence (5 percent); Vandalism (11 percent); Weapons (4 percent) and Substance Abuse (7 percent). These encouraging results are a tribute to the efforts of educators in the state to create a safe and supportive learning environment for all our students.

District and school summaries for all incident categories and the full report may be accessed at http://www.state.nj.us/education/schools/vandv/.

DCH/SM

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