



THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT / THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK / ALBANY, NY 12234

Kathleen R. DeCataldo, Esq.
Assistant Commissioner
Office of Student Support Services
89 Washington Avenue, Room 318M EB
Phone: (518) 486-6090
E-mail: kathleen.decataldo@nysed.gov; Web: www.p12.nysed.gov/sss/

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TO: District Superintendents of BOCES
Superintendents of Public School Districts Outside NYC
Principals of Public Schools Outside NYC
Charter School Leaders

FROM: Kathleen R. DeCataldo

SUBJECT: New definitions and School Violence Index (SVI) calculation for the **2021-22** School Safety and Educational Climate (SSEC) Reporting System

Effective July 1, 2021, [Commissioner's Regulation 100.2 \(gg\)](#) School Safety and Educational Climate (SSEC) incident categories and definitions and the School Violence Index (SVI) used to determine Persistently Dangerous (PD) schools have been revised. *Note: This change does not affect the 2020-21 SSEC data currently being collected this summer.*

After three years of schools and districts reporting under the revised SSEC categories and definitions adopted at the December 2016 Regents meeting, it became clear that there was confusion regarding a number of the revised categories, their definitions, and how they were weighed in calculating SVI. The Safe Schools Task Force (Task Force), reviewed the SSEC Data Collection system to re-examine SSEC category definitions with the feedback received from schools; re-assessed the SVI formula for more accurate identification of persistently dangerous schools; and assessed the need to collect data on threats of school violence.

As a result, the Task Force recommended the following steps related to SSEC categories and definitions:

- Revise the SSEC incident categories and definitions to reflect the most violent incidents by:
 - Removing subcategories to create only one serious incident category and definition, respectively, for "Assault," "Sexual Offense" and "Weapons."
 - Revising the definitions of Assault and Sexual Offense to include age, developmental age and intent.

- Requiring that referral to law enforcement be added to the definition of the categories used to calculate the SVI.
- Create an incident category that captures threats of school violence not captured under the definitions of “Bomb Threat” and “False Alarm.”

As a result of these recommendations, in April 2021, the New York State Board of Regents [adopted amendments to Commissioner’s Regulations §100.2 \(gg\)](#) , effective July 1, 2021.

The resulting revised ten categories for SSEC reporting starting with the 2021-22 school year are as follows:

- Homicide
- Sexual Offense
- Assault
- Weapons Possession
- Material Incidents of Discrimination, Harassment, and Bullying
- Bomb Threat
- False Alarm
- Threat (Other than bomb threat or false alarm)
- Use, Possession or Sale of Drugs
- Use, Possession or Sale of Alcohol

The definitions for Sexual Offense, Assault and Weapons Possession, as prescribed in §100.2(gg), have been revised to include the following three reportable criteria:

- An act committed by a person 10 years of age or older
- An act which constitutes a felony under the Penal Law, taking into consideration the developmental capacity of the person to form the intent to commit such act, and
- An act where the school has referred the person to the police for the act.

In addition, the Task Force, after review of the data and other States’ systems for compliance with federal law regarding violent incident reporting, recommended that the current SVI formula be revised. To address the recommendations, applicable for the first time to the **2021-22 SY** SSEC data, the SVI calculation will be revised to:

- Remove the weighting of incidents,
- Use a total of only the four most serious violent categories (homicide, felony assault, felony sexual offense, and weapons use/possession),
- Use a ratio of the sum of the four violent incident categories per 100 students, and
- $SVI = (\text{sum of incidents in 4 serious categories}) / \text{enrollment} \times 100$

An SVI of 3.0 or greater, two years in a row, will be used to designate schools as persistently dangerous.

Examples:

Example 1: An elementary school with a BEDS day enrollment of 351 reports zero homicides, zero sexual offenses, 1 assault and 2 incidents of weapons possession would have an SVI of 0.85	
Step 1: Enter the total number of violent incidents	
Violent incident category	Total number of incidents
Homicide	0
Sexual offense	0
Assault	1
Weapons	2
Step 2: Sum the total number of violent incidents	3
Step 3: Enter the school's enrollment on BEDS Day	351
Step 4: Calculate the SVI: The total number of incidents is divided by the enrollment and multiplied by 100 (<i>round the SVI to the second decimal place</i>)	$3/351 \times 100 = 0.85$
Step 5: Is the SVI greater than or equal to 3? (Yes or No)	No

Example 2: A high school with a BEDS day enrollment of 1315 reports zero homicides, two sexual offenses, 3 assaults, and 15 incidents of weapons possession would have an SVI of 1.52	
Step 1: Enter the total number of violent incidents	
Violent incident category	Total number of incidents
Homicide	0
Sexual offense	2
Assault	3
Weapons Possession	15
Step 2: Sum the total number of violent incidents	20
Step 3: Enter the school's enrollment on BEDS Day	1315
Step 4: Calculate the SVI: The total number of incidents is divided by the enrollment and multiplied by 100 (<i>round the SVI to the second decimal place</i>)	$20/1315 \times 100 = 1.52$
Step 5: Is the SVI greater than or equal to 3? (Yes or No)	No

To implement the regulatory changes, NYSED staff is working to revise the electronic application that is used to collect SSEC data to be available for reporting the 2021-22 collection. It is important to note that the 2021-22 submission of SSEC data will occur for the first time in June/July of 2022, this change does not impact the 2020-21 data collection which is currently underway.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR THE 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR

- [The 2021-22 SSEC forms, instructions, and glossary will be posted to the SSEC webpage in July 2021.](#)
- Individual incident data that schools maintain in their school records must reflect the new ten categories beginning with any incidents that occur in the new school year, on or after July 1, 2021, including incidents that occur during summer months of 2021 and when summer school was in session.
- NYSED staff are working with [New York State Center for School Safety](#) to provide virtual technical assistance and professional development in August 2021. Information regarding dates and times for training and technical assistance sessions will be available on the [New York State Center for School Safety website](#).
- Questions regarding the 2021-22 SSEC categories, definitions, reporting and SVI calculation should be directed to the Office of Student Support Services at SSEC@nysed.gov or (518) 486-6090.

We look forward to our continued work with you to improve the safety of our students and schools.