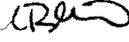


MEMORANDUM

January 14, 2011

TO: Education Committee
Public Safety Committee

FROM: Leslie Rubin, Legislative Analyst 
Office of Legislative Oversight

SUBJECT: Briefing/Discussion: 2009-2010 MCPS Report on School Safety and Security

On January 18th, the Public Safety and Education Committees will meet to discuss MCPS' third edition of *School Safety and Security at a Glance*. This report provides data on suspensions, serious incidents, Code Red and Code Blue drills, and school safety programs.

Councilmembers are asked to bring their copy of *School Safety and Security at a Glance 2009-2010* to the briefing. The full report is also available online at:
<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/regulatoryaccountability/safetyglance/>

The following individuals are scheduled to attend the Committees' meeting on January 18th:

Agency/Department	Attending...
Montgomery County Public Schools	Frank Stetson, Chief School Performance Officer Bob Hellmuth, Director, Department of School Safety and Security
Montgomery County Police Department	Russ Hamill, Commander, 2 nd District
State's Attorney's Office	Margaret Burrowes, Juvenile Chief Robert Hill, Assistant State's Attorney

When the Committees last discussed this topic in January 2010, Committee members expressed interest in seeing several types of information added to the *School Safety and Security at a Glance* report, including more information on bullying, trend data, and cumulative data. The 2009-2010 report includes the following new information:

- Three years of suspension data for each school;
- The number of bullying incidents reported and confirmed from the prior school year in each school;
- Results from questions about bullying from MCPS' survey of the school climate for each school; and
- Cumulative counts of all data overall and at the elementary, middle, and high school levels (p. 416-425 in the report, attached at ©1).

Information and Data on Bullying Incidents. In January 2010, the Committee’s discussion focused on MCPS’ practices for reporting, investigating, and addressing bullying. As noted above, the 2009-2010 report includes the number of bullying incidents reported and confirmed from the prior school year in each school.

In 2009-2010, there were 303 reported incidents of bullying in all MCPS schools and school officials confirmed bullying in 282 of those incidents. The following table summarizes the number of schools with five or more reported bullying incidents during this time period.

Summary of Report Bullying Incidents in MCPS Schools, 2009-2010

	All Schools	Elementary	Middle	High
# of Reported Bullying Incidents	303*	142	118	32
Schools with 10+ reported incidents	6	2	4	
Schools with 5-9 reported incidents	14	4	7	3

* There were 11 reported bullying incidents at MCPS Special Schools
 Source: 2009-2010 School Safety and Security at a Glance

College Gardens Elementary School had the most number of reported incidents during the 2009-2010 school year – 41. This was followed by 16 reported incidents at North Bethesda Middle School, 13 at Roberto W. Clemente Middle School, and 12 at Roscoe Nix Elementary School.

Attached at ©11 is an article from last Wednesday’s Washington edition of *The Examiner* newspaper that discusses reporting of bullying incidents in MCPS schools.

Recommended Discussion Questions Related to Bullying Incidents:

1. How do MCPS’ central office staff respond to schools with relatively high numbers of reported bullying incidents?
2. How does MCPS educate school-based staff to recognize, report, and address bullying?
3. What steps has MCPS taken in the past year to ensure complete and consistent reporting of bullying incidents?

Recommended Additional Discussion Questions on the School Safety Report:

1. What steps has MCPS taken in the past year to ensure complete and consistent reporting of serious incidents? How does MCPS currently assess the districtwide progress made on this issue?
2. Could MCPS staff provide some specific examples of how individual schools have used the information compiled in *School Safety and Security at a Glance* during the past year?

Attachment	Begins at
School Summary Profiles from <i>School Safety and Security at a Glance</i>	© 1
1-12-11 <i>Examiner</i> article – “Montgomery County students, teachers not reporting bullying”	© 11

Summary: County Elementary Schools

2009-2010 Number of Out-of-School Suspension Incidents Related to School Safety*									
	Arson Fire Explosives	Attack	Dangerous Substances	Disrespect Insubordination Disruption	Fighting	Theft	Threat	Weapons	Other
Total Incidents	10	216	3	91	30	9	48	43	13
Male	10	204	1	85	28	9	43	41	9
Female		12	2	6	2		5	2	4
American Indian									
Asian American		10		2		1	7	1	2
African American	6	118	1	53	22	6	19	21	5
White	1	56		23	4		10	5	3
Hispanic	3	32	2	13	4	2	12	16	3
Special Education	4	125	1	44	14	4	25	8	7
ESOL	2	22	2	15	2		6	9	4
FARMS	9	141	2	61	21	5	27	31	9

* Duplicated Count of Students

Out-of-School Suspension Rate**												
	Total Students Enrolled			Percent Students Enrolled			Number Students Suspended			Percent Students Suspended		
	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010
All Students	59211	60761	63593				737	384	351	1.2	0.6	0.6
Male	30089	30888	32663	50.8	50.8	51.4	651	331	322	2.2	1.1	1.0
Female	29122	29873	30930	49.2	49.2	48.6	86	53	29	0.3	0.2	0.1
American Indian	170	190	179	0.3	0.3	0.3	4	1		2.4	0.5	
Asian American	9396	9719	10390	15.9	16.0	16.3	37	12	18	0.4	0.1	0.2
African American	13233	13550	14232	22.3	22.3	22.4	397	203	192	3.0	1.5	1.4
White	23326	23574	23973	39.4	38.8	37.7	142	77	69	0.6	0.3	0.3
Hispanic	13086	13728	14819	39.4	22.6	23.3	157	91	72	1.2	0.7	0.5
Special Education	6452	13728	7600	10.9	10.6	12.0	237	140	149	3.7	2.2	2.3
ESOL	10686	11822	12821	18.0	19.5	20.2	90	58	43	0.8	0.5	0.3
FARMS	17512	18763	21115	29.6	30.9	33.2	428	235	233	2.4	1.3	1.1

** Unduplicated Count of Students

2009-2010 Reported Serious Incidents								
Description	Police Called		Description	Police Called		Description	Police Called	
	No	Yes		No	Yes		No	Yes
Academic Dishonesty			Disruptive Behavior	2	3	Protective Services	4	
Accident	8	12	Drugs			Robbery, Strong-Armed		
Alcohol		1	Extortion			Serious Injury		
Arrest		1	Fighting	2		Sex Related	14	1
Arson	1	2	Fire, Not Arson	7		Suicide	2	
Bomb			Gang-Related Incident/Crime			Theft		11
Bomb Threat			Hate Incident		1	Threat, Physical or Verbal	9	2
Bullying	1		Malfunction, Essential Equip.	3		Vandalism	2	28
Bus	5	7	Medical Assistance	256	9	Weapon	3	18
Computer Abuse			Missing Child	3	15	Weapon, Toy, Facsimile	1	6
Crisis Center			Physical Assault/Attack	9	6	Other	88	64

1

Summary: County Elementary Schools

2009-2010 Bullying Incidents***		Drills Conducted			Safety Incidents Requiring Code Status	
Number Reported	Number Confirmed	Code Red	Code Blue	Fire/Evacuation	Code Red	Code Blue
142	134	260	318	1320	1	19

*** The number of reported bullying incidents may differ from the number of bullying incidents reported as a serious incident because an event is identified as a serious incident only if it results in or leads to the death or serious injury of any person on an MCPS site or conducting MCPS business; potential or actual disruption of the planned school day; or, any of the other criteria outlined in MCPS Regulation COB-RA, *Reporting a Serious Incident* (see page 437). Additional information can be found in the glossary on page 427.

School Safety Programs
School Safety Programs are listed separately for each school.

School Climate -- From School Surveys of Environment 2009-2010****								
Students (85%/17045 Returned)	Agree	Valid N	Parents (28%/9689 Returned)	Agree	Valid N	Staff (50%/4450 Returned)	Agree	Valid N
I feel safe at school.	88.2	16958	My child feels safe at school.	96.8	9547	This school is a safe place to work.	97.3	4429
My things are safe in this school.	67.4	16921				My personal belongings are safe in this school.	87.2	4425
In this school, students bullying other students is a problem.	60.9	16847	In this school, students bullying other students is a problem.	30.2	7324	In this school, students bullying other students is a problem.	28.8	4289

**** Percentages based on valid responses.

Summary: County Middle Schools

2009–2010 Number of Out-of-School Suspension Incidents Related to School Safety*									
	Arson Fire Explosives	Attack	Dangerous Substances	Disrespect Insubordination Disruption	Fighting	Theft	Threat	Weapons	Other
Total Incidents	30	315	82	293	525	37	121	71	29
Male	22	245	49	233	391	28	93	68	25
Female	8	70	33	60	134	9	28	3	4
American Indian									
Asian American	2	7	3	10	15		4	3	1
African American	19	184	14	164	327	19	65	19	14
White		65	8	46	84	5	21	16	4
Hispanic	9	59	57	73	99	13	31	33	10
Special Education	9	127	17	111	149	10	58	7	8
ESOL	1	11	11	15	35	4	3	11	4
FARMS	21	189	57	185	316	30	81	38	18

* Duplicated Count of Students

Out-of-School Suspension Rate**												
	Total Students Enrolled			Percent Students Enrolled			Number Students Suspended			Percent Students Suspended		
	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010
All Students	30854	30885	30841				1980	1147	1195	6.4	3.7	3.9
Male	15805	15859	15751	51.2	51.3	51.1	1503	856	888	9.5	5.4	5.6
Female	15049	15026	15090	48.8	48.7	48.9	477	291	307	3.2	1.9	2.0
American Indian	88	85	88	0.3	0.3	0.3	5	3		5.7	3.5	
Asian American	4669	4783	4896	15.1	15.5	15.9	92	52	46	2.0	1.1	0.9
African American	7029	7189	7319	22.8	23.3	23.7	946	589	609	13.5	8.2	8.3
White	12473	11982	11722	40.4	38.8	38.0	383	183	206	3.1	1.5	1.8
Hispanic	6595	6846	6816	40.4	22.2	22.1	554	320	334	8.4	4.7	4.9
Special Education	3871	6846	3647	12.5	12.2	11.8	506	318	336	13.1	8.5	9.2
ESOL	2019	1847	1568	6.5	6.0	5.1	167	71	76	8.3	3.8	4.8
FARMS	8341	8802	9399	27.0	28.5	30.5	1050	656	728	12.6	7.5	7.7

** Unduplicated Count of Students

2009–2010 Reported Serious Incidents								
Description	Police Called		Description	Police Called		Description	Police Called	
	No	Yes		No	Yes		No	Yes
Academic Dishonesty			Disruptive Behavior	3	3	Protective Services		
Accident	2	8	Drugs		16	Robbery, Strong-Armed		
Alcohol	2	9	Extortion			Serious Injury		
Arrest		5	Fighting	3	5	Sex Related	52	18
Arson		3	Fire, Not Arson	3	1	Suicide		
Bomb		1	Gang-Related Incident/Crime			Theft	2	11
Bomb Threat			Hate Incident	5	1	Threat, Physical or Verbal	6	9
Bullying		1	Malfunction, Essential Equip.	5		Vandalism		10
Bus	1	2	Medical Assistance	159	3	Weapon	3	36
Computer Abuse			Missing Child	3	9	Weapon, Toy, Facsimile	2	7
Crisis Center		1	Physical Assault/Attack	10	19	Other	31	50

Summary: County Middle Schools

2009–2010 Bullying Incidents***		Drills Conducted			Safety Incidents Requiring Code Status	
Number Reported	Number Confirmed	Code Red	Code Blue	Fire/Evacuation	Code Red	Code Blue
118	109	72	90	368	1	5

*** The number of reported bullying incidents may differ from the number of bullying incidents reported as a serious incident because an event is identified as a serious incident only if it results in or leads to the death or serious injury of any person on an MCPS site or conducting MCPS business; potential or actual disruption of the planned school day; or, any of the other criteria outlined in MCPS Regulation COB-RA, *Reporting a Serious Incident* (see page 437). Additional information can be found in the glossary on page 427.

School Safety Programs
School Safety Programs are listed separately for each school.

School Climate — From School Surveys of Environment 2009–2010****									
Students (84%/17199 Returned)	Agree	Valid N	Parents (21%/2695 Returned)	Agree	Valid N	Staff (53%/2082 Returned)	Agree	Valid N	
I feel safe at school.	78.8	17120	My child feels safe at school.	92.1	2652	This school is a safe place to work.	92.3	2063	
My things are safe in this school.	56.4	17113				My personal belongings are safe in this school.	78.5	2058	
In this school, students bullying other students is a problem.	56.4	17055	In this school, students bullying other students is a problem.	41.5	1974	In this school, students bullying other students is a problem.	55.9	2005	

**** Percentages based on valid responses.

Summary: County High Schools

2009-2010 Number of Out-of-School Suspension Incidents Related to School Safety*									
	Arson Fire Explosives	Attack	Dangerous Substances	Disrespect Insubordination Disruption	Fighting	Theft	Threat	Weapons	Other
Total Incidents	19	326	282	388	567	153	164	72	71
Male	15	234	212	274	341	122	118	57	51
Female	4	92	70	114	226	31	46	15	20
American Indian				5	1				
Asian American	1	11	20	6	15	2	8	6	6
African American	8	202	87	243	343	104	91	26	31
White	4	47	99	41	45	10	26	20	16
Hispanic	6	66	76	93	163	37	39	20	18
Special Education	6	112	55	148	124	36	69	13	18
ESOL	3	7	7	23	54	6	8	6	2
FARMS	10	172	99	226	331	93	82	26	33

* Duplicated Count of Students

Out-of-School Suspension Rate**												
	Total Students Enrolled			Percent Students Enrolled			Number Students Suspended			Percent Students Suspended		
	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010
All Students	43553	43685	44192				2592	1780	1739	6.0	4.1	3.9
Male	22288	22394	22674	51.2	51.3	51.3	1809	1211	1203	8.1	5.4	5.3
Female	21265	21291	21518	48.8	48.7	48.7	783	569	536	3.7	2.7	2.5
American Indian	120	114	112	0.3	0.3	0.3	6	4	4	5.0	3.5	3.6
Asian American	6578	6739	6792	15.1	15.4	15.4	131	78	76	2.0	1.2	1.1
African American	10119	10218	10495	23.2	23.4	23.7	1221	862	906	12.1	8.4	8.6
White	18368	17857	17628	42.2	40.9	39.9	536	386	293	2.9	2.2	1.7
Hispanic	8368	8757	9165	42.2	20.0	20.7	698	450	460	8.3	5.1	5.0
Special Education	4760	8757	5090	10.9	11.0	11.5	651	437	473	13.7	9.1	9.3
ESOL	2762	2637	2417	6.3	6.0	5.5	154	112	104	5.6	4.2	4.3
FARMS	8730	9432	10786	20.0	21.6	24.4	1023	782	888	11.7	8.3	8.2

** Unduplicated Count of Students

2009-2010 Reported Serious Incidents								
Description	Police Called		Description	Police Called		Description	Police Called	
	No	Yes		No	Yes		No	Yes
Academic Dishonesty			Disruptive Behavior	3	5	Protective Services		1
Accident	8	28	Drugs	1	84	Robbery, Strong-Armed		5
Alcohol	5	16	Extortion		1	Serious Injury		
Arrest		36	Fighting	8	14	Sex Related	10	11
Arson	4	2	Fire, Not Arson	2	3	Suicide	2	
Bomb			Gang-Related Incident/Crime		2	Theft	1	15
Bomb Threat			Hate Incident	1	1	Threat, Physical or Verbal	15	19
Bullying			Malfunction, Essential Equip.	7		Vandalism		4
Bus	4	1	Medical Assistance	272	14	Weapon		49
Computer Abuse		1	Missing Child	2	2	Weapon, Toy, Facsimile	1	6
Crisis Center			Physical Assault/Attack	13	66	Other	43	63

Summary: County High Schools

2009–2010 Bullying Incidents***		Drills Conducted			Safety Incidents Requiring Code Status	
Number Reported	Number Confirmed	Code Red	Code Blue	Fire/Evacuation	Code Red	Code Blue
32	32	52	62	258	2	8

*** The number of reported bullying incidents may differ from the number of bullying incidents reported as a serious incident because an event is identified as a serious incident only if it results in or leads to the death or serious injury of any person on an MCPS site or conducting MCPS business; potential or actual disruption of the planned school day; or, any of the other criteria outlined in MCPS Regulation COB-RA, *Reporting a Serious Incident* (see page 437). Additional information can be found in the glossary on page 427.

School Safety Programs
School Safety Programs are listed separately for each school.

School Climate — From School Surveys of Environment 2009–2010****								
Students (74%/17090 Returned)	Agree	Valid N	Parents (18%/1947 Returned)	Agree	Valid N	Staff (48%/2379 Returned)	Agree	Valid N
I feel safe at school.	77.0	16996	My child feels safe at school.	91.5	1908	This school is a safe place to work.	91.6	2347
My things are safe in this school.	38.8	16997				My personal belongings are safe in this school.	73.1	2351
In this school, students bullying other students is a problem.	45.9	16934	In this school, students bullying other students is a problem.	29.5	1302	In this school, students bullying other students is a problem.	39.0	2220

**** Percentages based on valid responses.

Summary: County Special Schools

2009–2010 Number of Out-of-School Suspension Incidents Related to School Safety*									
	Arson Fire Explosives	Attack	Dangerous Substances	Disrespect Insubordination Disruption	Fighting	Theft	Threat	Weapons	Other
Total Incidents		69	18	76	15	5	70	4	12
Male		46	17	49	11	5	51	2	5
Female		23	1	27	4		19	2	7
American Indian									
Asian American		2		1			2		1
African American		45	10	56	8	4	49	3	8
White		8	2	9	2		6		2
Hispanic		14	6	10	5	1	13	1	1
Special Education		25	1	24	4	1	18	1	5
ESOL		2	1		2		3	1	
FARMS		55	14	59	12	5	54	4	10

* Duplicated Count of Students

Out-of-School Suspension Rate**												
	Total Students Enrolled			Percent Students Enrolled			Number Students Suspended			Percent Students Suspended		
	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010
All Students	748	733	822				132	120	117	17.6	16.4	15.7
Male	521	506	591	69.7	69.0	71.9	99	86	88	19.0	17.0	16.6
Female	227	227	231	30.3	31.0	28.1	33	34	29	14.5	15.0	13.4
American Indian	2	4	2	0.3	0.5	0.2						
Asian American	42	45	56	5.6	6.1	6.8	3	4	2	7.1	8.9	4.3
African American	315	311	334	42.1	42.4	40.6	78	72	71	24.8	23.2	22.5
White	240	215	221	32.1	29.3	26.9	24	20	12	10.0	9.3	6.0
Hispanic	149	158	209	32.1	21.6	25.4	27	24	32	18.1	15.2	17.7
Special Education	530	158	603	70.9	66.7	73.4	59	58	32	11.1	11.9	6.1
ESOL	42	28	59	5.6	3.8	7.2	1	1	3	2.4	3.6	11.1
FARMS	313	313	380	41.8	42.7	46.2	67	61	86	21.4	19.5	24.2

** Unduplicated Count of Students

2009–2010 Reported Serious Incidents								
Description	Police Called		Description	Police Called		Description	Police Called	
	No	Yes		No	Yes		No	Yes
Academic Dishonesty			Disruptive Behavior	9	4	Protective Services		
Accident	2	1	Drugs	3	2	Robbery, Strong-Armed		
Alcohol	2		Extortion			Serious Injury		
Arrest	2		Fighting			Sex Related	1	1
Arson			Fire, Not Arson	1		Suicide		
Bomb			Gang-Related Incident/Crime			Theft		1
Bomb Threat			Hate Incident	1		Threat, Physical or Verbal	6	5
Bullying			Malfunction, Essential Equip.			Vandalism		3
Bus		1	Medical Assistance	17		Weapon	1	3
Computer Abuse			Missing Child	3	1	Weapon, Toy, Facsimile		
Crisis Center			Physical Assault/Attack	1	2	Other	4	4

Summary: County Special Schools

2009-2010 Bullying Incidents***		Drills Conducted			Safety Incidents Requiring Code Status	
Number Reported	Number Confirmed	Code Red	Code Blue	Fire/Evacuation	Code Red	Code Blue
11	7	10	12	51	0	0

*** The number of reported bullying incidents may differ from the number of bullying incidents reported as a serious incident because an event is identified as a serious incident only if it results in or leads to the death or serious injury of any person on an MCPS site or conducting MCPS business; potential or actual disruption of the planned school day; or, any of the other criteria outlined in MCPS Regulation COB-RA, *Reporting a Serious Incident* (see page 437). Additional information can be found in the glossary on page 427.

School Safety Programs
School Safety Programs are listed separately for each school.

School Climate — From School Surveys of Environment 2009-2010****								
	Agree	Valid N		Agree	Valid N		Agree	Valid N
I feel safe at school.			My child feels safe at school.			This school is a safe place to work.		
My things are safe in this school.						My personal belongings are safe in this school.		
In this school, students bullying other students is a problem.			In this school, students bullying other students is a problem.			In this school, students bullying other students is a problem.		

**** Percentages based on valid responses.

Summary: County Schools

2009-2010 Number of Out-of-School Suspension Incidents Related to School Safety*									
	Arson Fire Explosives	Attack	Dangerous Substances	Disrespect Insubordination Disruption	Fighting	Theft	Threat	Weapons	Other
Total Incidents	59	926	385	848	1137	204	403	190	125
Male	47	729	279	641	771	164	305	168	90
Female	12	197	106	207	366	40	98	22	35
American Indian				5	1				
Asian American	3	30	23	19	30	3	21	10	10
African American	33	549	112	516	700	133	224	69	58
White	5	176	109	119	135	15	63	41	25
Hispanic	18	171	141	189	271	53	95	70	32
Special Education	19	389	74	327	291	51	170	29	38
ESOL	6	42	21	53	93	10	20	27	10
FARMS	40	557	172	531	680	133	244	99	70

* Duplicated Count of Students

Out-of-School Suspension Rate**												
	Total Students Enrolled			Percent Students Enrolled			Number Students Suspended			Percent Students Suspended		
	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010	2008	2009	2010
All Students	134366	136064	139448				5441	3431	3402	4.0	2.5	2.5
Male	68703	69647	71679	51.1	51.2	51.4	4062	2484	2501	5.9	3.6	3.5
Female	65663	66417	67769	48.9	48.8	48.6	1379	947	901	2.1	1.4	1.3
American Indian	380	393	381	0.3	0.3	0.3	15	8	4	3.9	2.0	1.1
Asian American	20685	21286	22134	15.4	15.6	15.9	263	146	142	1.3	0.7	0.6
African American	30696	31268	32380	22.8	23.0	23.2	2642	1726	1778	8.6	5.5	5.5
White	54407	53628	53544	40.5	39.4	38.4	1085	666	580	2.0	1.2	1.1
Hispanic	28198	29489	31009	40.5	21.7	22.2	1436	885	898	5.1	3.0	2.9
Special Education	15613	29489	16940	11.6	11.4	12.1	1453	953	990	9.3	6.2	6.3
ESOL	15509	16334	16865	11.5	12.0	12.1	412	242	226	2.7	1.5	1.4
FARMS	34896	37310	41680	26.0	27.4	29.9	2568	1734	1935	7.4	4.6	4.7

** Unduplicated Count of Students

2009-2010 Reported Serious Incidents								
Description	Police Called		Description	Police Called		Description	Police Called	
	No	Yes		No	Yes		No	Yes
Academic Dishonesty			Disruptive Behavior	17	15	Protective Services	4	1
Accident	20	49	Drugs	4	102	Robbery, Strong-Armed		5
Alcohol	9	26	Extortion		1	Serious Injury		
Arrest	2	42	Fighting	13	19	Sex Related	77	31
Arson	5	7	Fire, Not Arson	13	4	Suicide	4	
Bomb		1	Gang-Related Incident/Crime		2	Theft	3	38
Bomb Threat			Hate Incident	7	3	Threat, Physical or Verbal	36	35
Bullying	1	1	Malfunction, Essential Equip.	15		Vandalism	2	45
Bus	10	11	Medical Assistance	704	26	Weapon	7	106
Computer Abuse		1	Missing Child	11	27	Weapon, Toy, Facsimile	4	19
Crisis Center		1	Physical Assault/Attack	33	93	Other	166	181

Summary: County Schools

2009–2010 Bullying Incidents***		Drills Conducted			Safety Incidents Requiring Code Status	
Number Reported	Number Confirmed	Code Red	Code Blue	Fire/Evacuation	Code Red	Code Blue
303	282	394	482	1997	4	32

*** The number of reported bullying incidents may differ from the number of bullying incidents reported as a serious incident because an event is identified as a serious incident only if it results in or leads to the death or serious injury of any person on an MCPS site or conducting MCPS business; potential or actual disruption of the planned school day; or, any of the other criteria outlined in MCPS Regulation COB-RA, *Reporting a Serious Incident* (see page 437). Additional information can be found in the glossary on page 427.

School Safety Programs
School Safety Programs are listed separately for each school.

School Climate — From School Surveys of Environment 2009–2010****									
Students (81%/51525 Returned)	Agree	Valid N	Parents (24%/14409 Returned)	Agree	Valid N	Staff (50%/9093 Returned)	Agree	Valid N	
I feel safe at school.	81.3	51263	My child feels safe at school.	95.2	14178	This school is a safe place to work.	94.5	9019	
My things are safe in this school.	54.2	51218				My personal belongings are safe in this school.	81.5	9016	
In this school, students bullying other students is a problem.	54.4	51023	In this school, students bullying other students is a problem.	32.3	10651	In this school, students bullying other students is a problem.	37.7	8641	

**** Percentages based on valid responses.

Montgomery County students, teachers not reporting bullying

By: Lisa Gartner 01/12/11 8:05 PM

Examiner Staff Writer

School officials are concerned about the high percentage of students and teachers say bullying is a problem in schools, but no incidents have been officially reported.

Montgomery school officials are troubled that a high percentage of students and teachers say bullying is a problem at schools where no incidents have been officially reported.

At Montgomery Village Middle School, 72 percent of students and 82 percent of teachers agreed in a schools survey that "In this school, students bullying other students is a problem" -- yet zero bullying incidents were reported, let alone confirmed.

No bullies here?

High schools with zero official bullying reports, 2009-2010

School	Students who say bullying is a problem at this school	Teachers who say bullying is a problem at this school
Bethesda Chevy-Chase	41%	31%
Montgomery Blair	44%	40%
James Hubert Blake	48%	40%
Winston Churchill	43%	42%
Thomas Edison	28%	11%
Albert Einstein	44%	39%
Northwest	53%	45%
Northwood	54%	49%
Paint Branch	48%	46%
Quince Orchard	40%	30%
Rockville	46%	58%
Seneca Valley	50%	39%
Watkins Mill	53%	45%
Wheaton	53%	51%
Walt Whitman	35%	22%

Middle schools with zero official bullying reports, 2009-2010

School	Students who say bullying is a problem at this school	Teachers who say bullying is a problem at this school
Briggs Chaney	65%	66%
Forest Oak	66%	69%
Gaithersburg	62%	44%
Herbert Hoover	35%	57%
Francis Scott Key	67%	63%
Col E. Brooke Lee	66%	50%
A. Mario Loiederman	63%	71%
Montgomery Village	72%	82%
Neelsville	75%	66%
Newport Mill	62%	73%
John Pool	54%	62%
Ridgeview	58%	73%
Silver Spring Int's	65%	49%
Sligo	71%	75%
Takoma	48%	41%
White Oak	61%	54%
Earl B. Wood	55%	29%

*Three reported incidents at Sligo but none confirmed.

According to the official incident reports, 18 out of 38 middle schools and 16 out of 26 high schools were bully-free in the 2009-2010 school year. But at least one-third of students said bullying was a problem at every one of those secondary schools but Thomas Edison, a vocational high school with a high special-needs population. At all but two of those middle schools, more than half of students agreed that bullying was a school problem.

"I think the question as we go forward is ... are staff familiar with the obligations they have, if they've seen an incident?" said Frank Stetson, chief school performance officer for Montgomery County Public Schools. "Are they seeing these incidents or do they just believe they're going on based on hearsay they're receiving?"

The school system adopted a new bullying, harassment and intimidation policy last summer in compliance with Maryland's Safe Schools Reporting Act of 2005. A student notifies a "teacher, counselor, staff member, principal, parent, or close adult relative," who completes a two-page, 12-question form. A principal, or designee, "promptly" investigates the incident.

Superintendent Jerry Weast said students are reluctant to report bullying because "we don't have a lot of good remedy" for those who come forward.

"It takes a lot of effort ... a hearing, the proving, it has to be found and substantiated -- it's just laborious," Weast said. "I think people who get bullied tend to wonder, is it worth it to deal with it."

Board of Education member Judy Docca said staff may need more training on how to act when they discover bullying. "I think teachers and staff in the classroom don't really know what to say, like 'That's just how boys are,' or 'Just ignore that teasing,' " said Docca, who lives in Montgomery Village and is a former principal with the school system.

Docca warned against pinning the phenomenon on tech toys. "It's the old-fashioned bullying where kids are calling kids other names, or isolating them," Docca said. "Don't throw your hands up and say it's cyberbullying and there's nothing we can do about it."

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Read more at the Washington Examiner:

<http://washingtonexaminer.com/local/education/2011/01/montgomery-students-teachers-not-reporting-bullying-administration#ixzz1AvQAqOgX>