



The New York State Center for School Safety

Providing support to schools, families, and communities

School Safety and the Educational Climate Reporting

Revised Definitions and Revisions to the School Violence Index Calculation

August 2021



New York State Education Department



New York State Center for School Safety





Welcome!

NYSED Office of Student Support Services

Gwyn Marschman

Michele Shahen

Center for School Safety

Tina Tierney

Kathy Oboyski-Butler

Sarah Murphy

Dawn Rettig

Thank you for joining us!





Key Terms

- ❖ Education Law §2801 and Commissioner's Regulation §100.2(gg)
- ❖ Safe Schools Against Violence in Education Act (SAVE)
- ❖ Violent and Disruptive Incident Reporting (VADIR) *obsolete term*
- ❖ School Safety and the Educational Climate (SSEC) Reporting
- ❖ Dignity for All Students Act (DASA)
- ❖ Unsafe School Choice Option (USCO)
- ❖ Persistently Dangerous designation
- ❖ School Violence Index (SVI)



Effective Date of All Updated Definitions and SVI Calculation

The SSEC incident reporting period begins each year on July 1st and ends on June 30th.

There are ***no changes*** to SSEC reporting for the 2020 - 2021 school year.

All revisions presented **become effective** for incident reporting during the 2021 - 2022 school year.

The revised definitions **become effective on July 1, 2021** for reporting that will be submitted at the end of the 2022 school year.



SSEC Issues Identified

- ❖ There was confusion around some of the SSEC categories, their definitions, and how they were weighted in calculating the SVI.
- ❖ Data was collected on incidents that do not necessarily reflect violent and/or disruptive incidents.
- ❖ The term “weapon” was unclear.
- ❖ While the system collects incidents of “bomb threat” and “false alarm” there is no category to collect other forms of school threats.
- ❖ The SVI formula over-identified low enrollment (predominantly elementary) schools; and under-identified high enrollment (often secondary) schools as Persistently Dangerous schools.



SSEC Issues Explored

The Safe Schools Task Force was reconvened in 2019 and made recommendations to:

- ❖ Revise some of the definitions in §100.2(gg).
- ❖ Revise the SVI to focus on only violent incidents and take school enrollment into account in a more accurate manner.



SSEC Revisions: Definitions

Revisions:

- ❖ Remove subcategories to create one, serious incident category and definition for both “Assault” and “Sexual Offense”.
- ❖ The definitions include age, developmental age, and intent.
- ❖ The terms “Assault” and “Sexual Offense” are revised to be consistent with the definitions in the NYS Penal Law.
- ❖ The term “weapon” is revised to be consistent with the definition of such term in the Penal Law, to accurately reflect all of the Penal Law’s enumerated list of weapons.
- ❖ Requiring that the school has referred the person to the police for the act was added to these definitions to reflect the most serious of violent incidents.
- ❖ Added a definition for “**threat** (other than bomb threat or false alarm).”



SSEC Revisions: Definitions

Sexual Offense, Assault, and Weapons Possession have been revised to include the following three reportable criteria:

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





SSEC Definitions effective July 1, 2021

Revised Definition

Sexual Offense

An act committed by a person 10 years of age or older which would constitute a felony under Article 130 of the Penal Law, taking into consideration the developmental capacity of the person to form the intent to commit such act, and where the school has referred the person to the police for the act.

CR 100.2(gg)(1)(iv)(b)



SSEC Definitions effective July 1, 2021

Revised Definition

Assault

An act committed by a person 10 years of age or older which would constitute a felony under Article 120 of the Penal Law, taking into consideration the developmental capacity of the person to form the intent to commit such act, and where the school has referred the person to the police for the act.

CR 100.2(gg)(1)(iv)(c)



SSEC Definitions effective July 1, 2021

Revised Definition

Weapon

Shall mean any weapon defined in Article 265 of the Penal Law.

CR 100.2(gg)(1)(iii)

Weapons possession

An act committed by a person 10 years of age or older which would constitute a felony under Article 265 of the Penal Law, taking into consideration the developmental capacity of the person to form the intent to commit such act, and where the school has referred the person to the police for the act.

CR 100.2(gg)(1)(iv)(h)



SSEC Definitions effective July 1, 2021

New Category

Threat (other than bomb threat or false alarm)
A verbal, telephoned, written or electronic message of a threat of violence on school property or at a school related function.

CR 100.2(gg)(1)(iv)(e)



SSEC Incident Reporting Categories Effective July 1, 2021

Part I: SSEC Incident Categories (effective July 1, 2021)

1. Homicide
2. **Sexual Offense**
3. **Assault**
4. **Weapons Possession**
5. Material Incidents of Discrimination, Harassment, and Bullying
 - 5a. All incidents excluding Cyberbullying
 - 5b. Cyberbullying
6. Bomb Threat
7. False Alarm
8. **Threat (Other than bomb threat or false alarm)**
9. Use, Possession or Sale of Drugs
10. Use, Possession or Sale of Alcohol





SVI Formula Revision effective July 1, 2021

- ❖ Remove the weighing of incidents.
- ❖ Use a total of only the four most serious violent categories:
 - homicide
 - felony assault
 - felony sexual offense
 - weapons use/possession
- ❖ Use a ratio of the sum of the four violent incident categories per 100 students.



SVI Formula Revision effective July 1, 2021

Revised Formula

The SVI = the sum of incidents in 4 serious categories/enrollment x 100

An SVI of 3.0 or greater for two consecutive years will be used to designate a school as persistently dangerous.



SVI Formula Revision effective July 1, 2021

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
Incidents involving the possession or use of a weapon	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





SVI Formula Revision effective July 1, 2021

Example 2: A high school with a BEDS day enrollment of 1315 reports zero homicides, 2 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
Incidents involving the possession or use of a weapon	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



Persistently Dangerous Designation Effective July 1, 2021

Persistently dangerous schools.

Only the most serious violent incidents, which shall include only the following categories of incidents: homicide, sexual offense, assault and incidents involving the possession or use of a weapon, are used in making such determination.

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

CR100.2 (gg)(8), (3)(a)



SSEC Incident Reporting Categories Effective July 1, 2021

Part I: SSEC Incident Categories (effective July 1, 2021)

Homicide

Sexual Offense *

Assault *

Weapons Possession *

Material Incidents of Discrimination, Harassment, and Bullying

- All incidents excluding Cyberbullying
- Cyberbullying

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 **only** categories with revised definitions are:

- **Sexual Offense***
- **Assault***
- **Weapons Possession***
- **Threat (*new category*)***





SSEC Incident Reporting Categories Effective July 1, 2021

Part I: SSEC Incident Categories (effective July 1, 2021)

Homicide

Sexual Offense

Assault

Weapons Possession

Material Incidents of Discrimination, Harassment, and Bullying

- All incidents excluding Cyberbullying
- Cyberbullying

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 **only** categories with revised definitions are:

- **Sexual Offense***
- **Assault***
- **Weapons Possession***
- **Threat (*new category*)***

**Incident categories are
no longer weighted**





SSEC Incident Reporting Categories Effective July 1, 2021

SSEC Incident Categories (effective July 1, 2021)

Homicide +

Sexual Offense +

Assault +

Weapons Possession +

Material Incidents of Discrimination, Harassment

- All incidents excluding Cyberbullying
- Cyberbullying

Bomb Threat

False Alarm

Threat (Other)

Use, Possession of

Use, Possession of

The **only** categories with revised definitions are:

- Sexual Offense
- Assault
- Weapons Possession
- Threat (*new category*)

**Incident categories are
no longer weighted**

The **only** categories used to determine the **SVI** and designate schools as **Persistently Dangerous** are:

- **Homicide +**
- **Sexual Offense +**
- **Assault +**
- **Weapons Possession +**





Information from NYSED



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

TO: P-12 Education Committee

FROM: John L. D'Agati *John L. D'Agati*

SUBJECT: Proposed Amendment to Sections 100.2(cc), (gg) and 120.3(a) of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education Relating to the Uniform Violent or Disruptive Incident Reporting System, Also Known as the School Safety and Educational Climate Report

DATE: December 3, 2020

AUTHORIZATION(S): *John L. D'Agati* *Betsy Miller*

SUMMARY

Issue for Discussion

Should the Board of Regents amend Sections 100.2(cc), (gg) and 120.3(a) of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education relating to the Uniform Violent or Disruptive Incident Reporting System, also known as the School Safety and Educational Climate Report?

Reason(s) for Consideration

Review of Policy.

Proposed Handling

The proposed amendment will be presented to the P-12 Education Committee for discussion at the December 2020 Board of Regents meeting. A copy of the proposed amendment is included as Attachment A.

Procedural History

A Notice of Proposed Rule Making will be published in the State Register on December 30, 2020. Supporting materials are available upon request to the Secretary of the Board of Regents.

P-12 (D) 3

- ❖ **SUBJECT:** Proposed Amendment to Sections 100.2(cc), (gg) and 120.3(a) of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education Relating to the Uniform Violent or Disruptive Incident Reporting System, Also Known as the School Safety and Educational Climate Report
- ❖ **DATE:** December 3, 2020



Information from NYSED

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

❖ **DATE:** July 22, 2021



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/sssa/

July 22, 2021

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.



Resources to Support SSEC Reporting

- ❖ Individual Incident Report (IIR) form
- ❖ SSEC Instructions
- ❖ Glossary of Terms
- ❖ School Safety and the Educational Climate (SSEC) Summary Data Collection Form
- ❖ Criteria for Designating Persistently Dangerous Schools



NYSED Website

p12.nysed.gov/sss/ssae/schoolsafety/vadir/2021-22SSECFormsInstructionsandGuidance.html



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2021-22 SSEC Forms, Guidance and Instructions

Effective July 1, 2021, for the **2021-22 school year**, 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.

****These documents are NOT to be used for the 2020-21 SY SSEC data collection - they are ONLY to be used for 2021-22 School Year Incidents****

[2021-22 SSEC Reporting Form](#) (Effective 7/1/21 for **2021-22 SY**)

[Instructions for SSEC Reporting System](#) (Effective 7/1/21 for **2021-22 SY**)

[Glossary of Terms](#) (Effective 7/1/21 for **2021-22 SY**)

[Commissioner's Regulations 100.2 \(gg\)](#) (Effective 7/1/21 for **2021-22 SY**)

[Individual Incident Reporting Form](#) (Effective 7/1/21 for **2021-22 SY**)

Last Updated: August 9, 2021

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SSEC Summary Data Collection Form

Q38

School Year 2021-22: School Safety and the Educational Climate (SSEC) Summary Data Collection Form <small>(Active Date: 07/01/21)</small>											
Part 1: Dignity for All Student Act (DASA) and Violent and Disruptive Incident Reporting (VADIR)*	1. Homicide	2. Sexual Offense	3. Assault	4. Weapons Possession	5. Material Incidents of Discrimination, Harassment, and Bullying		6. Bomb Threat	7. False Alarm	8. Threat of School Violence (Other than Bomb Threat or False Alarm)	9. Use, Possession or Sale of Drugs	10. Use, Possession or Sale of Alcohol
					5a. All Excluding Cyberbullying	5b. Cyberbullying					
Report the total number of incidents. Count each incident only one time regardless of the number of offenders or targets/victims involved. For incidents that fit more than one category, choose the most serious.											
Total Number of Incidents	a										
Report if the offense listed in row (a) was related to a bias. * Note that if appropriate, an incident may be reported for more than one bias (duplicated count). For example, if an Assault was related to the Victim/Target's Religion and Gender, it should be reported in both rows. See directions for additional information.											
Total Number of Biased-Related Incidents	b										
Race	c										
Ethnic Group	d										
National Origin	e										
Color	f										
Religion	g										
Religious Practices	h										
Disability	i										
Gender	j										
Sexual Orientation	k										
Sex	l										
Weight	m										
Other	n										
Report the number of incidents in row (a) that were gang/group related.											
Gang or Group Related	o										
Report the number of incidents in row (a) that involved a weapon, alcohol, and/or drugs. The sum of rows (n) and (o) must equal the number reported in row (a)* Note rows (n1-n3) may be duplicated counts if an incident involved more than											

SSEC form Change Log (+)

Accessibility: Investigate



For More Information

NYSED Office of Student Support Services

www.p12.nysed.gov/sss/

www.p12.nysed.gov/sss/ssae/schoolsafety/vadir/#data

Content-related questions, contact the *Office of Student Support Services*:

- By email: SSEC@nysed.gov
- By phone: (518) 486-6090

Difficulties accessing or using the online SSEC form, contact the *Office of Information and Reporting Services*:

- By [Help Center Ticket](#)
- By phone: (518) 474-7965

The New York State Center for School Safety
www.nyscfss.org





Considerations

- ❖ Reporting an incident on the SSEC form is not the same as responding to an incident.
- ❖ SSEC reporting criteria and definitions do not take into account the impact of the incident on the targeted student.
- ❖ Your Title IX Coordinator is an important resource.
- ❖ Communication, communication, communication.



Questions





SSEC Reporting Webinar

Thank You

for your thoughtful participation!

