Office of the Superintendent of Schools
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

January 11, 2011

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Education

From: Jerry D. Weast, Superintendent of Schools

Subject: School Safety and Security Report

Executive Summary

The third annual edition of Montgomery County Public Schools' (MCPS) *School Safety and Security at a Glance* report was provided to you and members of the Montgomery County Council on December 3, 2010. This publication summarizes data from the 2009–2010 school year for each individual school on suspensions, serious incidents, Code Red and Code Blue drills, school climate, and local school safety and security program descriptions. Additionally, this year the report includes county summary data for elementary, middle, high, and special schools along with county summary data for all schools, trend data for out-of-school suspensions for the three most recent school years, and the number of bullying incidents reported and confirmed per individual school. *School Safety and Security at a Glance* is closely aligned with the *MCPS Schools at a Glance* report, also published annually. It complements, not supplants, other reports reflecting safety and security-related data that currently are produced.

Based on both a need for a single source of information about school safety and security issues and the findings of an October 2006 report by the Office of Legislative Oversight (OLO), the *School Safety and Security at a Glance* report was developed. The report identifies procedures schools use to address incidents that impact the safety and security of their staff members and students or disrupt the process of effective teaching and learning. The *School Safety and Security at a Glance* report provides accurate reporting of incidents related to school safety and security in a concise, easily understood format, making data readily accessible to administrators, teachers, students, and parents to promote a productive learning environment in every school.

The Education and Public Safety committees of the Montgomery County Council have requested a joint presentation on the 2009–2010 *School Safety and Security at a Glance* report that will take place on January 20, 2011. We have improved *School Safety and Security at a Glance* this year and many of the changes are the result of Montgomery County Council of Parent Teacher

Associations (MCCPTA) and Montgomery County Council suggestions. Today's presentation will provide you with an overview of the report and the improvements we have made.

Background

Members of the Board of Education, MCPS staff members, and parents had expressed an interest to receive data reports on safety and security in our schools, reiterated in the 2006 OLO report, which indicated that information on safety and security should be disseminated to stakeholders. While many different relevant reports are produced, there was not a single report in a user-friendly format to provide this information. Staff worked with multiple stakeholder groups to develop a new annual school safety report that first was published in fall 2008.

Reporting Sections Used in *School Safety and Security at a Glance*

School Safety and Security at a Glance provides individual school data in the following eight areas (see attachment):

- Section 1 provides data on the number of out-of-school suspension incidents that are related to school safety. This information also is reported annually to the Maryland State Department of Education. The data represent a duplicated count of students, meaning students may be counted in more than one category or may be counted more than once in the same category. For instance, if a student is suspended twice for fighting, the student is counted twice in this category.

- Section 2 reports on the number and percentage of students suspended during the three most recent school years. The data represent an unduplicated count of students, meaning students are counted only once, regardless of the number of times they may be suspended. These three-year trend data were included in the report at the request of a member of the Montgomery County Council and will be discussed at the January 20, 2011, presentation.

- Section 3 reports on serious incidents that were reported to the Office of School Performance (OSP) as well as the number of incidents for which police were notified. MCPS Regulation COB-RA, *Reporting a Serious Incident,* identifies a serious or unusual incident as one that occurs at an MCPS site or in connection with a school-related activity that may be classified in the categories of safety and health or security and discipline. Guidelines for reporting serious incidents are posted in the online *Principals Handbook* and are reviewed with principals prior to the beginning of each school year. School staff members are expected to notify staff in OSP of all serious incidents as soon as possible after the incident has occurred, and no later than 24 hours following the incident. Information collected includes the type and a brief description of the incident, and disciplinary actions taken. This information is reviewed by appropriate OSP staff members and the community superintendent.

- Section 4 reports on the number of bullying incident reports submitted at a school and the number of reported bullying events deemed accurate upon investigation by a school administrator. This is the first year this information has been included. MCPS staff members worked with MCCPTA representatives to include this information in an easily accessible format for parents. It will be discussed at the January 20, 2011, presentation.

- Section 5, *Drills Conducted*, identifies drills practiced at the schools in order to prepare students for emergency situations and those situations that necessitated declaration of an alert status.

- Section 6, *Safety Incidents Requiring Code Status*, reflects the actions taken by schools when actual incidents occur at a school or in a school's community requiring staff members and students to remain in their classrooms or within a secured area where they can be accounted for and supervised.

- Section 7, *School Safety Programs*, identifies those programs offered at the school to develop the behaviors and skills that promote safe and secure school environments.

- Section 8 reports on the percentage of students, parents, and school staff members who responded positively to items related to the perception of safety and security, including bullying, at the individual school on the *Surveys of School Environment*.

Additionally, county summary data pages for elementary, middle, high, and special schools are included in *School Safety and Security at a Glance*, along with a county summary data page for all schools. These county summary data pages were included as a result of a request from multiple members of the Education and Public Safety committees of the Montgomery County Council and will be highlighted during the January 20, 2011, presentation.

Summary

School Safety and Security at a Glance is used to provide an overview of incidents that threaten the safety and security of school staff members and students, or that disrupt the process of effective teaching and learning. It is critical that administrators, teachers, students, and parents work together to ensure the best learning environment possible. The information contained in this report is intended to inform that work. By sharing the report with school leadership, school staff members, students, and parents, principals can foster discussions regarding the implementation of the individual school's serious incident processes and procedures and whether they match the needs that the report is highlighting. Data from the report are used by community superintendents to monitor and implement improvements to school climates, in consultation with the principals.

Present at the table for today's discussion are Dr. Frank H. Stetson, chief school performance officer, Office of School Performance and Mr. Robert B. Hellmuth, director, Department of School Safety and Security.

JDW:dm

Attachment

MCPS High School - #999

Principal: Name
Community Supt: Name
School Hours: 7:25 - 2:10

address
www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/mcpshs

Office Phone: (301) 555-5555
Fax Number: (301) 555-5555
Cluster Name: Name

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	2	8	22	32	14	8	10	3	11
Male	2	8	12	29	12		8	3	9
Female			10	3	2	8	2		2
American Indian						1			
Asian American									
African American			1		4	3			3
White	2	7	19		10	2	6	3	6
Hispanic		1	2			2	4		2
Special Education	1	2		14	3	4	1	2	1
ESOL									
FARMS	1	1		5	1	7			5

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* 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	1434	1401	1401				68	73	41	4.7	5.2	2.9
Male	713	687	689	49.7	49.0	49.2	51	58	33	7.2	8.4	4.7
Female	721	714	712	50.3	51.0	50.8	17	15	8	2.4	2.1	1.1
American Indian	6	6	4	0.4	0.4	0.3	1	1		16.7	16.7	
Asian American	57	73	72	4.0	5.2	5.1	0	1	3	0.0	1.4	4.3
African American	104	113	129	7.3	8.1		11	15	10	10.6	13.3	7.9
White	1101	1042	1040	76.8	74.4		43	45	21	3.9	4.3	2.0
Hispanic	166	167	156	76.8	11.9		13	11	6	7.8	6.6	3.8
Special Education	184	167	191	12.8	12.3		18	16	12	9.8	9.3	6.4
ESOL	2	0	0	0.1	0.0	0.0						
FARMS	134	143	169	9.3	10.2	12.1	16	18	15	11.9	12.6	8.6

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** Unduplicated Count of Students

2009–2010 Reported Serious Incidents

Description	Police Called No	Yes	Description	Police Called No	Yes	Description	Police Called No	Yes
Academic Dishonesty			Disruptive Behavior			Protective Services		
Accident		2	Drugs		3	Robbery Strong-Armed		
Alcohol			Extortion			Serious Injury		
Arrest			Fighting			Sex Related		1
Arson			Fire, Not Arson			Suicide		
Bomb			Gang Related Incident			Theft		
Bomb Threat			Hate Incident			Threat Physical or Verbal	1	1
Bullying			Malfunction, Essential E...			Vandalism		1
Bus			Medical Assistance	14		Weapon		2
Computer Abuse			Missing Child			Weapon, Toy, Facsimile		
Crisis Center			Physical Assault/Attack			Other	2	

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MCPS High School - #999

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
1	1	2		10	0	2

*** The number of bullying incidents may differ from the number of bullying incidents reported as a serious incident. 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 closure or disruption of the planned school day; or, meets the other criteria outlined in COB-RA, Reporting a Serious Incident (see page 439). Additional information can be found in the glossary on page 436.

School Safety Programs
Study Circles

School Climate - From School Surveys of Environment 2009–2010****								
Students (81%/562 Returned)	Agree	Valid N	Parents (13%/58 Returned)	Agree	Valid N	Staff (92%/143 Returned)	Agree	Valid N
I feel safe at school.	79.7	558	My child feels safe at school.	93.1	58	This school is a safe place to work.	98.6	140
My things are safe in this school.	44.0	559				My personal belongings are safe in this school.	89.4	141
In this school, students bullying other students is a problem.	39.5	557	In this school, students bullying other students is a problem.	23.5	34	In this school, students bullying other students is a problem.	27.1	133

**** Percentages based on valid responses.