

Harassment, Intimidation, & Bullying

Semi-Annual Report

July 2023-December 2023

(Reporting Period 1)

West Windsor-Plainsboro Regional School District

Jessica Smedley

Director of School Counseling

jessica.smedley@wwprsd.org

January 2024

Tonight's Presentation

- Review NJ's Definition of Harassment, Intimidation, & Bullying
- Policy Change to Allow for Preliminary Determination
- Data Analysis: Patterns & Themes
- Proactive Approaches to Prevent HIB

Definition of HIB

(Harassment, Intimidation, & Bullying)

- Any gesture, any written, verbal or physical act, or any electronic communication, whether it be a single incident or a series of incidents
- Reasonably perceived as being motivated either by any actual or perceived characteristic
- That takes place on school property, at any school-sponsored function [or], on a school bus, or off school grounds
- Substantially disrupts or interferes with the orderly operation of the school or the rights of other students

2022 Amendments to Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights & Changes for WW-P

- NJDOE released an updated reporting form (HIB Form 338)
- The updated forms for both families/caretakers and LEA staff are available on the district website
- The BOE amendment Policy #5512 in August 2023 to allow for the use of preliminary determination

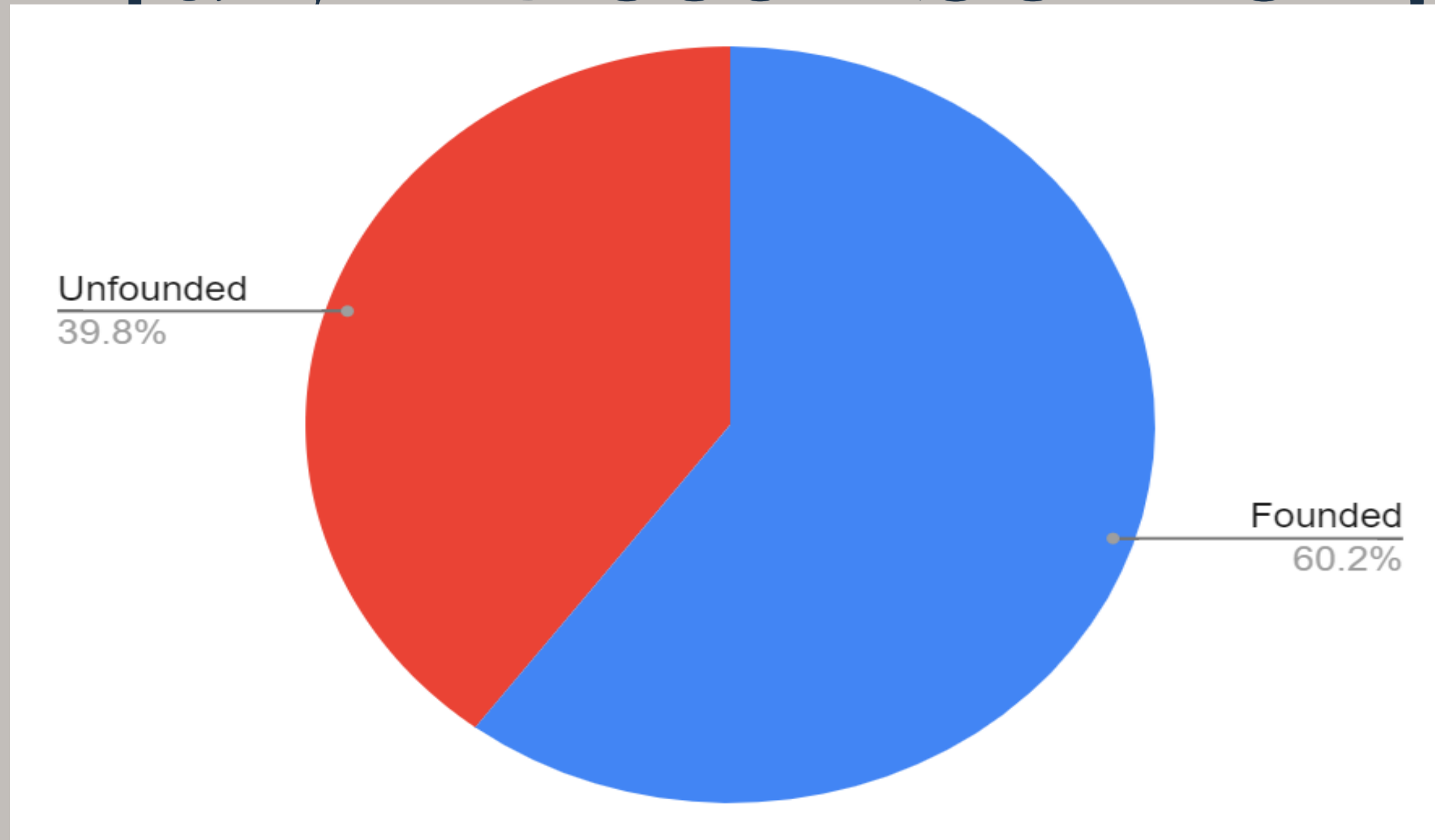
Preliminary Determination

From WW-P Policy #5512

“Prior to initiating an investigation regarding a reported incident or complaint, the Principal or designee, in consultation with the anti-bullying specialist, shall make a preliminary determination as to whether a reported incident or complaint, assuming all facts are presented as true, is a report within the scope of N.J.S.A. 18A:37-14.

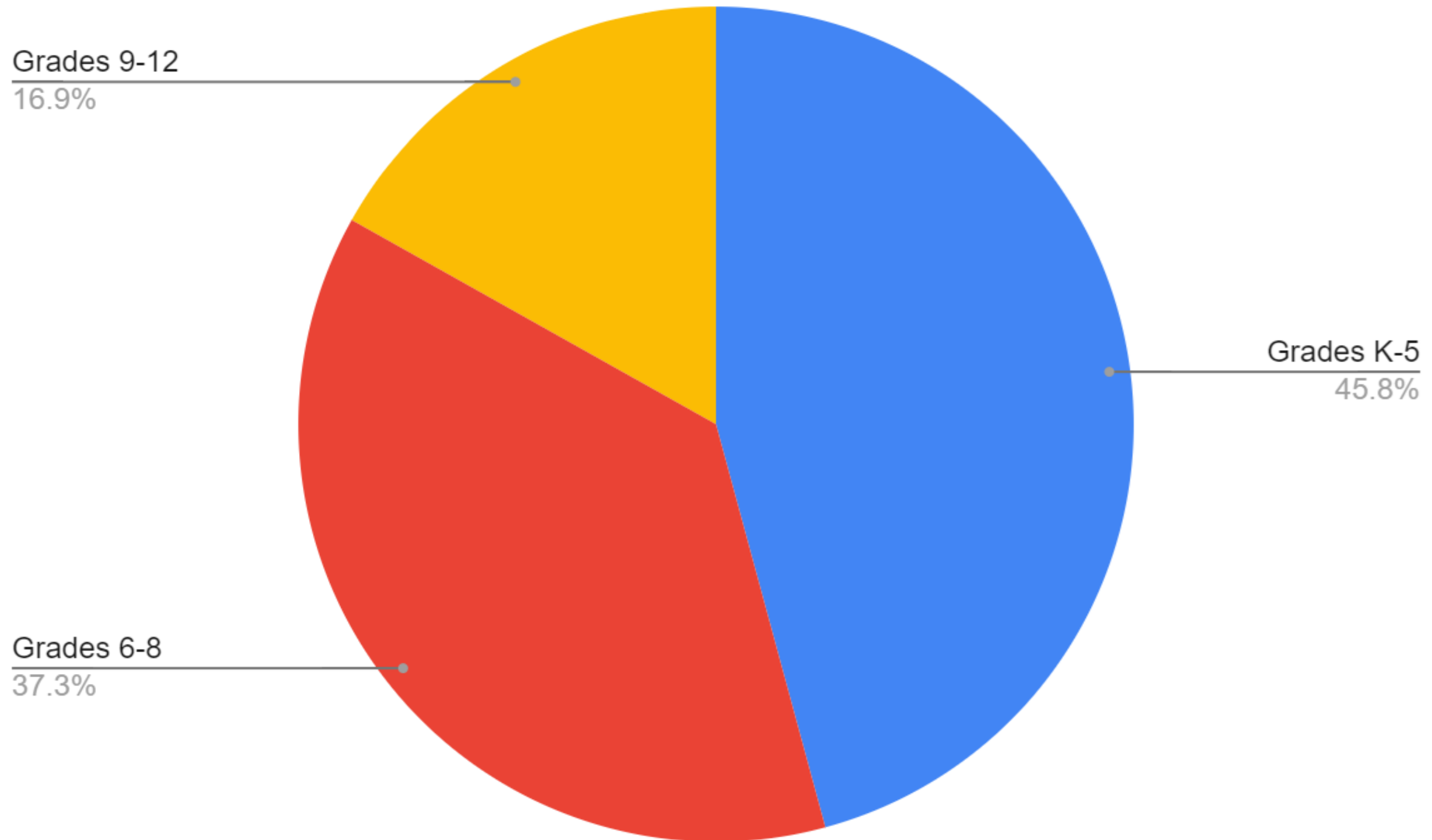
Should the Principal or designee, in consultation with the anti-bullying specialist, determine that a reported incident or complaint, assuming all facts presented are true, is not a report within the scope of N.J.S.A. 18A:37-14, the incident will be addressed through the Board’s Code of Student Conduct policy.”

WWPRSD HIB Investigations July - December 2023

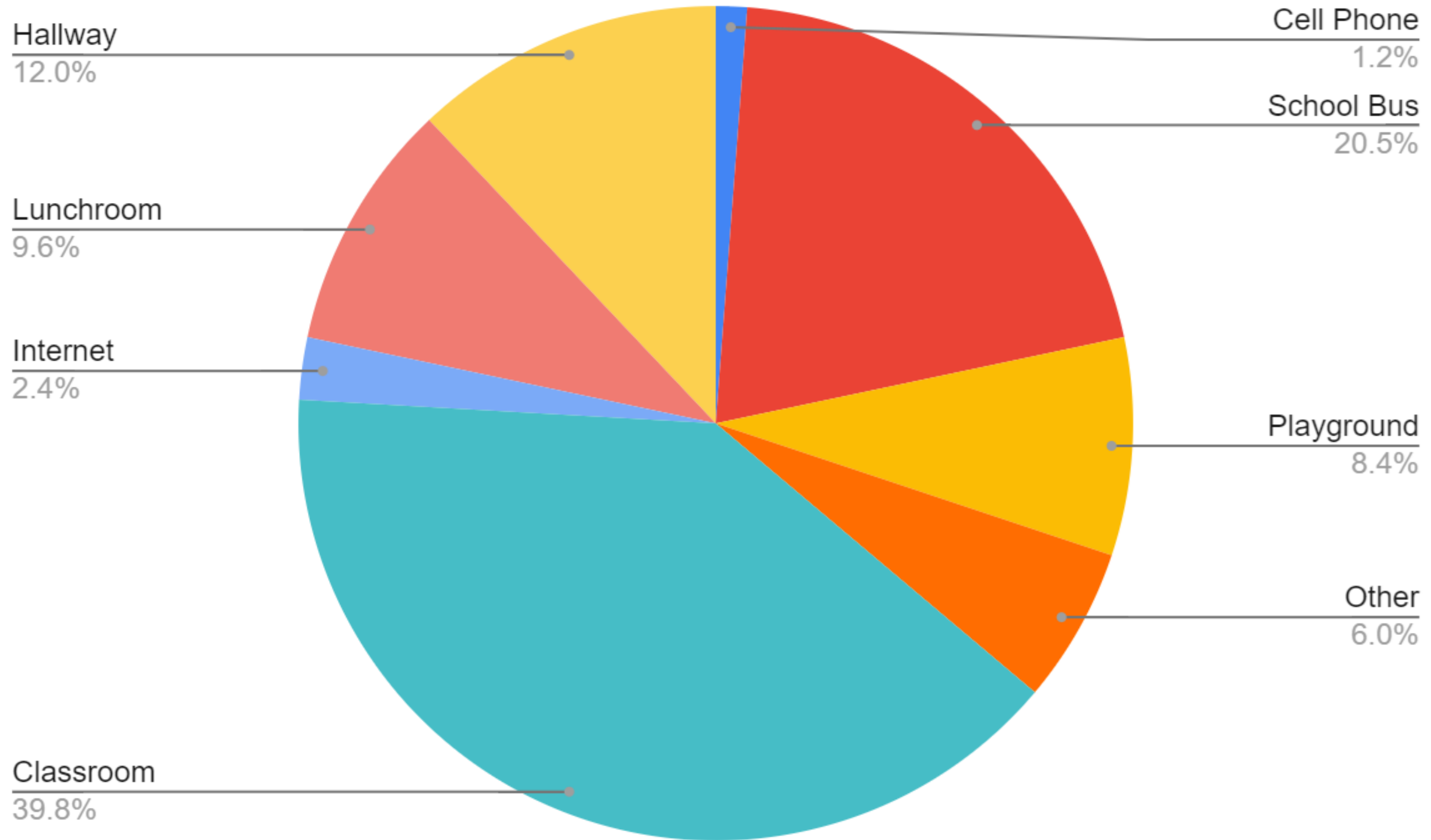


83 Investigations / 50 Founded / 33 Unfounded

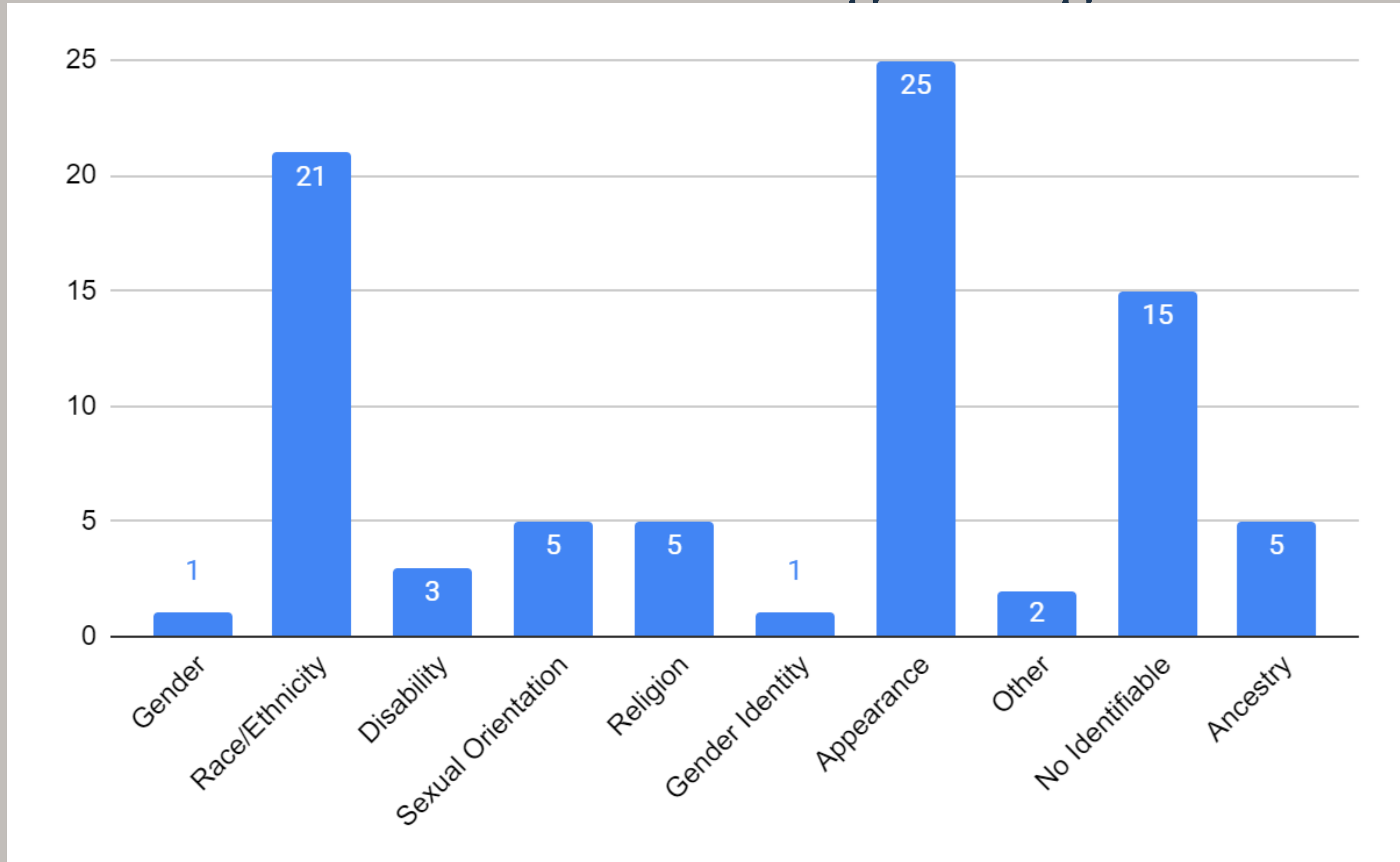
Total Investigations by Grade Band



Founded Incidents of HIB: Location



Founded Incidents of HIB: Distinguishing Characteristic

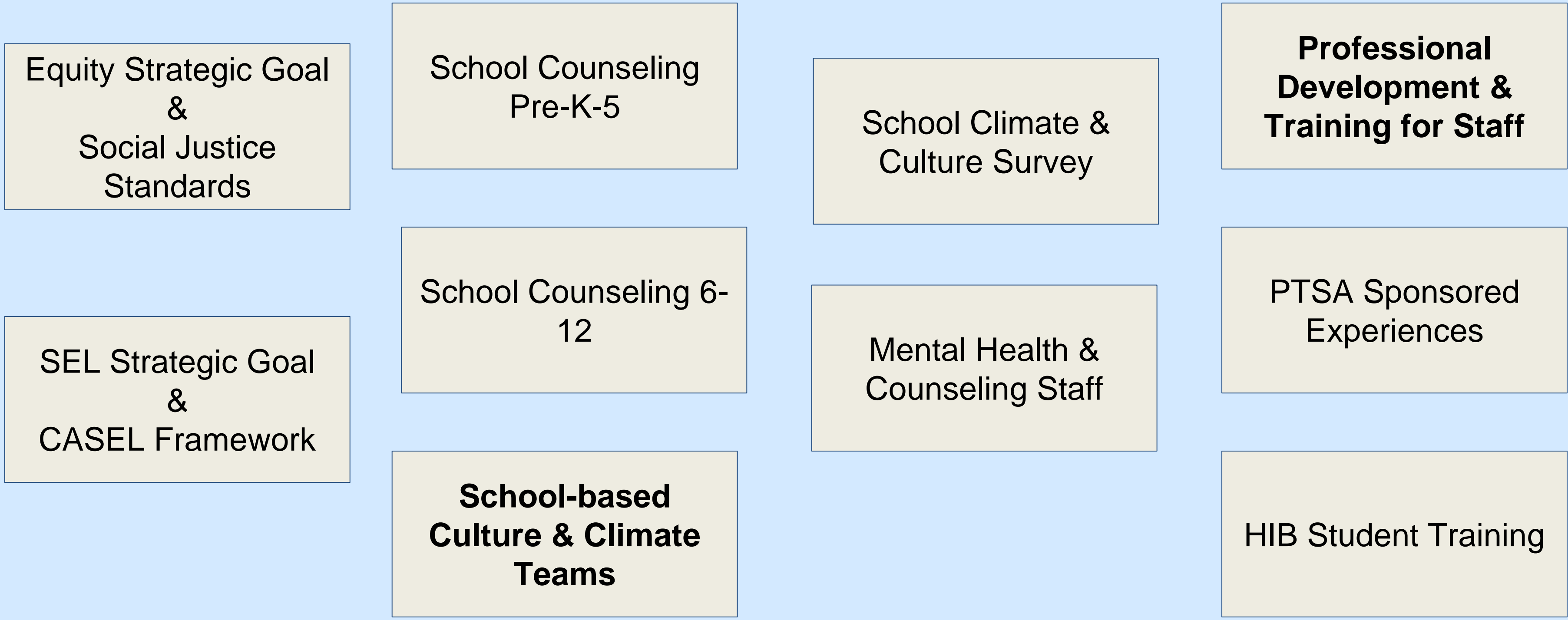


Patterns & Trends

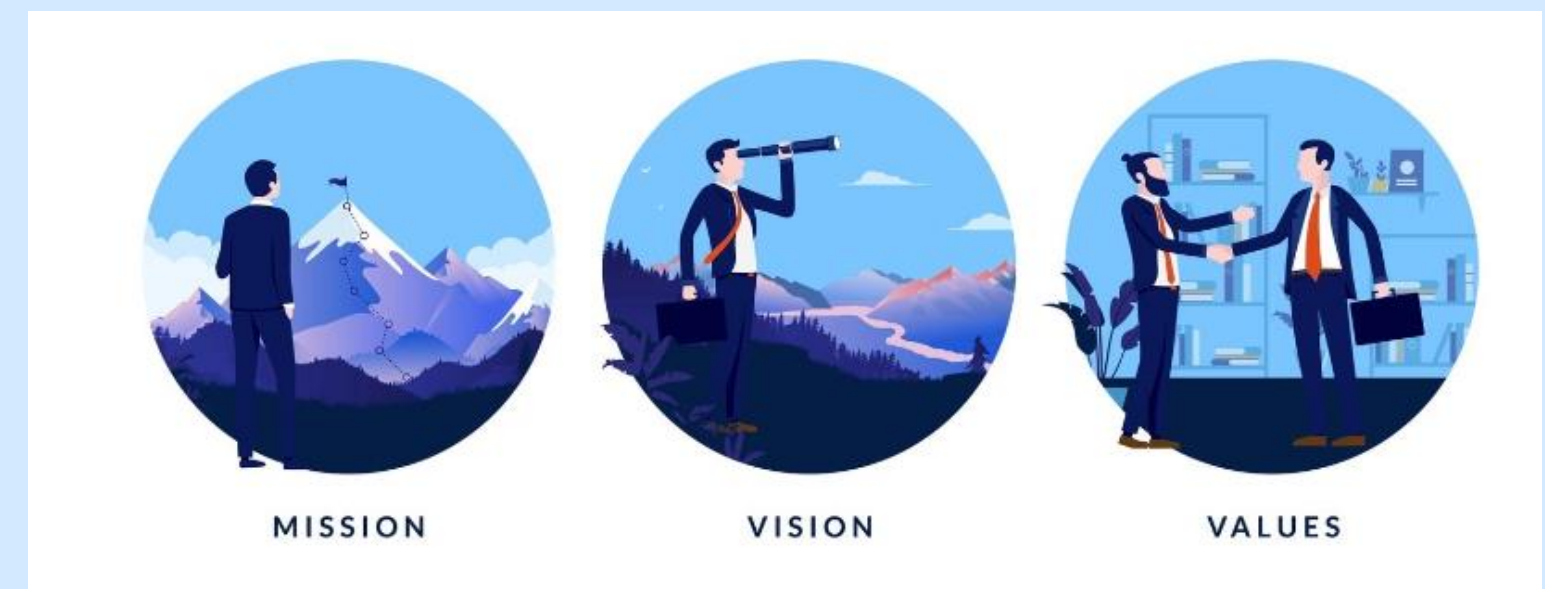


- Total number of investigations decreased from last year's first reporting period
- Preliminary determination has been helpful for productive conversations with students and their families
- Race/ethnicity and appearance were the two most prevalent distinguishing characteristics for founded incidents of HIB
- Increase in the number of reports from classroom teachers

Proactive Approaches to Bullying Prevention



WWP District Mission



WW-P is committed to providing all students with a safe learning environment that is free from harassment, intimidation, and bullying (HIB).

- Adhering to the New Jersey Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights
- Training all staff to identify, report, and address HIB
- Proactively educating caregivers, students, Board of Education members
- Establishing positive school communities, HIB expectations and a commitment to safety and respectful behavior