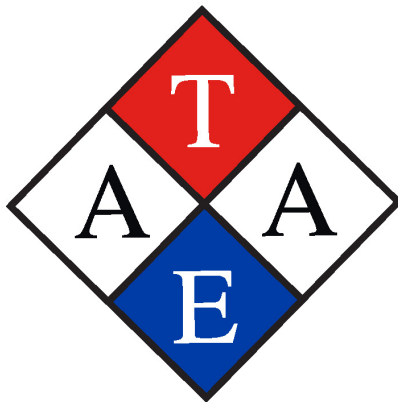


**ATA Survey on Violence in Schools  
June 2023**





## ATA Survey on Violence in Schools June 2023



### General Observations

The survey covered student-to-student violence, student-to-adult violence, and adult-to-adult violence. It also looked at how incidents were reported and the level of satisfaction with the way incidents were dealt with. The last question invited additional comments.

**Total number of participants:** 227 (Approximately 43% of teachers)

Preschool	8%
Elementary	46%
Secondary	36%
Adult Education	3%
Vocational Training	7%

### General Organizational Findings

- 45% of teachers do not know if their school has a Safe School Committee.
- 36% of teachers do not know if their school has a Local Special Education Committee.

### Part I – Student-to-student Violence

- 32% of teachers witness student-to-student violence on a weekly basis in their schools.
- 21% of teachers deal directly with student-to-student violence on a weekly basis.

### Forms of violence surveyed

- Physical assault
- Physical assault involving police
- Illegal substances (use or trafficking)
- Overt physical or verbal intimidation
- Cyberbullying
- Overt social alienation
- Racial or other prejudice
- Sexual assault
- Sexual harassment
- Theft
- Threats of violence
- Vandalism
- Weapons (possession or use)

## **Increases from 2021-2022 to 2022-2023**

Physical assaults increased by 18%  
Overt physical or verbal intimidation increased by 9%  
Overt social alienation increased by 5%  
Racial or other prejudice increased by 4%  
Threats of violence increased by 3%  
Sexual assault increased by 2%  
Sexual harassment increased by 1%

## **Reporting of Student-to-student Violence**

- 64% of teachers reported incidents using some form of written communication, whether an incident report, email or other system.

## **Observations from comments re: Reporting (44 comments)**

There seem to be a number of different systems for reporting incidents, from emails to different incident forms to a Profiler system. Some schools appear not to have any defined reporting system.

## **Level of satisfaction with how the incident was handled**

- 41% of those who reported an incident were satisfied with how it was handled, an increase of 6% over the previous year.
- 26% of those who reported an incident were not satisfied with how it was handled, a decrease of 1% over the previous year.

## **Observations from comments re: Level of Satisfaction (43 comments)**

- Many teachers felt that there is a lack of consistency with how incidents are handled and that established procedures were not followed
- Many teachers felt that it took too long to deal with the incident and that there was a lack of follow-up
- Many teachers feel there needs to be strong consequences / plans for chronic offenders
- A few teachers said they were blamed for the incident and they received little support

## **Part II – Student-to-adult Violence**

- 43% experience no violence from students
- 15% of teachers experience some form of violence from students on a weekly basis.

## Forms of violence surveyed

Physical assault  
Attempts to physically intimidate  
Verbal aggression  
Threats  
Cyberbullying  
Other forms of violence included biting, scratching, hitting/slapping, kicking, being hit with thrown objects, racial, and sexual harassment

## Increases from 2021-22 to 2022-2023

Threats increased by 4%  
Theft increased by 3%  
Verbal aggression increased by 2%  
Attempts to physically intimidate increased by 2%  
Other forms of violence increased by 8%

## Reporting of Student-to-adult Violence

- 42% of teachers reported the incident using an incident report or other written document

## Level of Satisfaction with how the incident was handled

- 20% of those who reported an incident were satisfied with how it was handled, a decrease of 2%
- 27% of those who reported an incident were not satisfied with how it was handled, an increase of 4%

## Observations from comments re: Level of Satisfaction (61 comments)

- Many teachers feel that there is a lack of consistency and that consequences are not severe enough.
- Many teachers feel that there is a lack of follow-up
- Many teachers feel that many consequences are “Band-Aid solutions” and do not produce lasting change
- Some teachers feel unsupported by their administrators, and that some administrators take the student’s side and do not apply consequences.
- Some teachers feel that some students with ASD or other challenges are not held accountable for their behaviour and that teachers are just expected to “suck it up”
- A few teachers feel that neither teachers nor administrators are equipped to deal with severely violent students and that they are a danger to everyone

## Part III – Adult-to-adult Violence

- 5% of teachers experience violence from another adult on a weekly basis, a number that has remained stable over the past two years.
- 4% of teachers experience violence from another adult on a monthly basis, a number that has remained stable over the past two years.

### Sources of violence

- Staff Member – 71%
- Administrator- 30%
- Parent – 34%

### Forms of Violence Surveyed

Overt physical and/or verbal intimidation  
Gossip  
Cyberbullying  
Overt social alienation  
Racial or other prejudice  
Sexual assault  
Sexual Harassment  
Theft  
Threats of reprisal

### Increases from 2021-22 to 2022-2023

Overt physical and/or verbal intimidation increased by 2%  
Gossip increased by 3 %  
Cyberbullying increased by 3 %

### Reporting of Adult-to-adult Violence

- 17% of teachers reported incidents using some written communication, whether and incident report, email or other system
- 15% did not use a system / form to report incidents
- 54% felt it was not appropriate to file a written report

### Level of Satisfaction with how the incident was handled

- 7% of those who reported an incident were satisfied with how it was handled, and increase of 3% over the previous year
- 10% of those who reported an incident were not satisfied with how it was handled, a decrease of 4% over the previous year

### **Observations from comments re: Level of Satisfaction (18 comments)**

- Many teachers feel that administrators and HR to not do enough to support teachers who report acts of violence by staff or administrators.
- Many teachers feel that the ETSB needs to do more when administrators are unable to deal effectively with parental violence against them.

### **Observations from Additional Final Comments (85 comments)**

- Many teachers do not feel safe at school
- Many teachers do not feel supported by their administrator and/or the ETSB.
- Many teachers feel that violence is increasing.
- Many teachers commented about the need for common policies and procedures across the ETSB; changes in administrators often results in changes to rules and procedures and their application.
- Many teachers feel that protocols and consequences need to be made clear to both parents and students
- Many teachers feel that consequences are not consistently applied and there is a lack of follow-up
- Many teachers feel that the ETSB doesn't do enough about violence
- Many teachers feel that adults, whether teachers, other staff, administrators, or parents, who commit acts of violence need to be dealt with and/or dealt with more severely.
- Some teachers expressed appreciation of their administrator(s)' support
- A few teachers mentioned social media as a contributing factor to increasing violence
- A few teachers feel that substitute teachers need to be better informed about the policies, procedures and consequences of acts of violence.
- Two teachers expressed concern that students do not feel safe in bathrooms
- One teacher expressed disappointment that there was not a section on adult-to-student violence, as this person has witnessed violent and demeaning behaviour from staff toward students on a regular basis

### **The ATA recommends:**

- 1) that the ETSB ensure that all schools have functioning Safe School and Local Special Needs Committees at the beginning of the year, and that all staff are aware and invited to participate;
- 2) that the ETSB & ATA - developed Incident Form be completed as soon as possible, that the ETSB / ATA hold training sessions on its use, and that it be put into mandatory use in all schools and centres;
- 3) that a Student-to-student Incident Form be developed as soon as possible and that its use be mandatory in all schools and centres
- 4) that the ETSB ensure that administrators review the ETSB Code of Ethics with staff at the start of each school year;

- 5) that the ETSB and ATA take steps to ensure that all schools have updated Codes of Conduct, that all staff and students be reminded of the Code of Conduct, that the Code of Conduct be prominently displayed in schools and on websites; that the Code of Conduct be updated yearly, and that all parents be informed of the Code of Conduct;
- 6) that the ETSB and ATA develop a policy and procedures around the behaviour of students with special needs, and particularly for those students with chronic violent behaviours;
- 7) that ETSB, ATA & TRUSS develop and conduct an annual survey on violence in schools; and
- 8) that additional support staff be hired to increase supervision in hallways.