



Toby N. Romer
Assistant Superintendent
Secondary Education and Special Programs

MEMO

To: School Committee
From: Toby Romer, Assistant Superintendent for Secondary Education
Re: Follow-Up to School Safety Presentation
Date: December 19, 2022

I am following up on a question during the school safety presentation at the last school committee meeting on December 5th, 2022. A question was asked that could be misunderstood to mean that based on the 2022 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS), 21% of all NPS students had brought a weapon to school in the past 30 days. That is incorrect, and I want to correct that for the committee, and I also hope that that can be corrected publicly as well. This potential misunderstanding was also clarified when the YRBS was originally presented to the committee in June of 2022.

This question reported that of the students who reported carrying a weapon at all in the past 30 days (which was 105 students, or 4% of respondents), 21% of those students reported carrying a weapon on school property in the past 30 days. In raw numbers, of the 2,933 responding high school students in Newton, 105 reported that they had carried a weapon anywhere in the past 30 days. Of those 105 students, 22 students reported that they had carried a weapon on school property in the last 30 days. The survey did not ask specifically what type of weapon or where or when the weapon came on school property. While 22 students is a concerning number, it is significantly different than what was implied in the question.

The entire YRBS presentation is linked here for your reference, as it was presented last June.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1CjJ6QD44b65YZxCio3Wp9nvpEWZ4n4ZD/view?usp=sharing>