

Crackdown at Kennedy

School is cited as one of the city's most violent

By Etanjalie Narraph

Violent incidents have become so prevalent among the more than 4,000 students at John F. Kennedy High School that extra police officers are patrolling in and around the building in an all-out crackdown on crime. Since the school, at 99 Terrace View Ave., was added to the city Department of Education's Impact School Initiative list on April 24, eight officers have beefed up the force of more than 20 school safety agents and two 50th Precinct police officers.

Kennedy and Newton High School in Queens caught the attention of officials when an analysis of data by the New York City Police Department and the Department of Education revealed that the two schools represent less than a quarter of the total public school population, but together

they account for 2 percent of total crime.

Several years ago metal detectors were installed at the entrances to the school. Though they have made it more difficult for students to bring weapons in, they have done little to stem the tide of violence. A Department of Education press release explained that, "compared to last year, total crime at these schools through April 2, has increased 50 percent, violent crime has increased 185 percent and major crime has increased 167 percent."

The city launched the Impact School Initiative in 2004, assigning extra police officers to focus intensified enforcement against low-level crime and disorder and rigorously enforce the New York City discipline code at schools that earned the dubious distinction of being named to the list.

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