

Out-of-School Suspensions

Definition

Suspensions for *law violations* is the number and rate per 100 students removed from school because they broke the law. Suspensions for *board violations* is the number and rate per 100 students removed from school because they violated school or board of education rules.

Data in context

All students benefit from a safe and comfortable learning environment. Successful schools provide a rigorous course of study to help all students achieve while keeping students safe with clearly communicated, consistently enforced, and fairly applied discipline methods.

While test scores, graduation rates, and parent involvement are often used as indicators of a successful school, the rate of suspensions can provide an indication of the health of a school. Schools with lower suspension rates often reveal an inviting environment with respectful interactions among staff and students and strong relationships among all stakeholders.¹

When a student interferes with the learning of other students or jeopardizes the safety of others, school administrators can take action, ranging from parent conferences to out-of-school suspensions and expulsion. In SY 2007, out-of-school suspensions were the most widely used disciplinary action for both law and board policy violations.² Out-of-school suspensions were used 80,065 times, decreasing for the third consecutive year.³ The three most common reasons for disciplinary action in SY 2007 were for board violations, including disturbing class, fighting, and defiance of authority.⁴ Board violations made up 93 percent of all suspensions.⁵ Law violations, which include carrying a weapon, vandalism, and drug possession, accounted for 7 percent of suspensions.⁶

Students depend on fair and equitably-applied discipline, yet Kentucky data for SY 2007 reflect notable differences in suspension rates by race, income, and gender. Between SY 2006 and SY 2007, total disciplinary actions

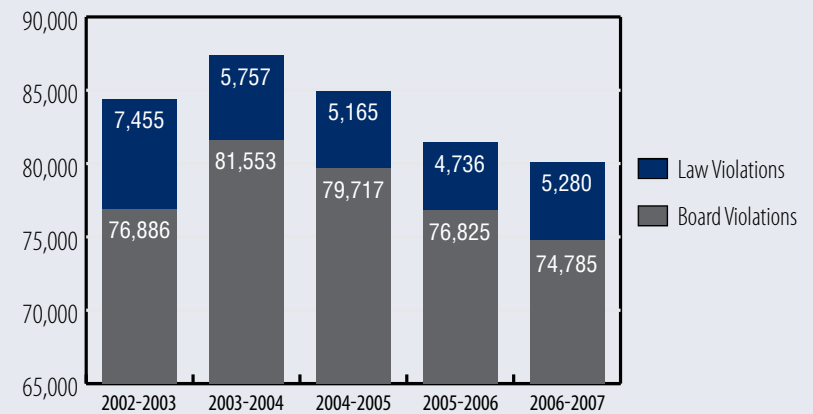
(including suspensions, expulsions, and corporal punishment) decreased for the second consecutive year for White, non-Hispanic students.⁷ Yet disciplinary actions increased over the same time period for non-Hispanic Black students, who were 2.6 times more likely to be suspended for board violations and 11.7 times more likely to be suspended for law violations than their peers.⁸ Despite making up approximately half of students, low-income students accounted for 74 percent of disciplinary actions for board violations and 63 percent of disciplinary actions for law violations.⁹ Male students were almost four times as likely to be disciplined as females.¹⁰

Among the 107 districts with 6 or more suspensions for law violations, Barren County, Campbellville Independent, Cumberland County, Martin County, Union County, and Wayne County School Districts had rates more than twice the state rate. Eighteen districts had no suspensions for law violations that year.

The rate of suspensions for board violations was less than 1 per 100 in Hancock and Ohio County School Districts. Rates were triple the state rate in Christian County, Covington Independent, Paducah Independent, and Providence Independent School Districts.

There are a number of effective disciplinary alternatives to out-of-school suspensions and expulsion, including smaller and more personalized learning environments, school-based violence prevention programs, individual and group counseling, in-school suspension, conflict resolution workshops, and participation in community-based intervention programs.¹¹ To achieve the overall goal of academic success, schools must implement disciplinary measures in an equitable way while reducing the likelihood of students repeating negative behavior.

Suspensions for Law and Board Violations, SY 2003-2007



Source: Kentucky Department of Education, NCLB data files.

Data Source: Kentucky Department of Education.

Data Note: Students may have received more than one out-of-school suspension during the school year. Independent school districts are listed after the school district for the county in which they are located.

Rate Calculation: $(\text{number of out-of-school suspensions for law violations during school year 2000} * 100) / (\text{number of students during school year 2000})$
 $(\text{number of out-of-school suspensions for board violations during school year 2007} * 100) / (\text{number of students during school year 2007})$

- 1 Christle, C., Nelson, M., and Jolivet, K. (2004). *School Characteristics Related to the Use of Suspension*. Issues Briefs, no. 12. Available at <http://www.kysafeschools.org>. Accessed October 2008.
- 2 May, D. and Chen, Y. (2007). *Kentucky 2007: Safe Schools Data Project*. Kentucky Center for School Safety. Available at: <http://www.kysafeschools.org>. Accessed October 2008.
- 3 Ibid.
- 4 Ibid.
- 5 Ibid.
- 6 Ibid.
- 7 Ibid.
- 8 Ibid.
- 9 Ibid.
- 10 Ibid.
- 11 University of California, Los Angeles Institute for Democracy, Education and Access website. *Suspension and Expulsion At-A-Glance*. Available at <http://idea.gseis.ucla.edu/publications/suspension/index.html>. Accessed October 2008.

Suspensions for law and board violations (number & rate per 100 students)

	SY 2007			
	Law violations		Board violations	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Kentucky	5,280	0.8	74,785	11.7
Adair Co.	5	*	433	16.9
Allen Co.	25	0.8	251	8.3
Anderson Co.	32	0.8	544	14.2
Ballard Co.	2	*	130	9.6
Barren Co.	93	2.1	293	6.7
Caverna Ind.	5	*	111	15.1
Glasgow Ind.	5	*	208	10.8
Bath Co.	2	*	272	13.9
Bell Co.	20	0.7	123	4.1
Middlesboro Ind.	0	*	295	18.7
Pineville Ind.	0	*	41	7.5
Boone Co.	256	1.5	1,547	9.0
Walton Verona Ind.	5	*	121	9.5
Bourbon Co.	18	0.7	396	14.9
Paris Ind.	2	*	133	18.3
Boyd Co.	24	0.7	153	4.7
Ashland Ind.	20	0.7	256	8.4
Fairview Ind.	1	*	32	4.1
Boyle Co.	19	0.7	389	14.4
Danville Ind.	4	*	172	10.0
Bracken Co.	17	1.4	215	18.1
Augusta Ind.	0	*	31	11.0
Breathitt Co.	1	*	287	13.1
Jackson Ind.	0	*	25	6.2
Breckinridge Co.	3	*	100	3.8
Cloverport Ind.	0	*	1	*
Bullitt Co.	74	0.6	1,074	8.9
Butler Co.	21	1.0	400	19.2
Caldwell Co.	15	0.8	492	25.4
Calloway Co.	15	0.5	178	5.9
Murray Ind.	6	0.4	134	8.7
Campbell Co.	17	0.4	195	4.2
Bellevue Ind.	6	0.8	141	17.7
Dayton Ind.	0	*	53	5.6
Fort Thomas Ind.	8	0.3	71	3.0
Newport Ind.	4	*	585	29.8
Silver Grove Ind.	1	*	43	16.2
Southgate Ind.	0	*	27	18.9
Carlisle Co.	4	*	20	2.6
Carroll Co.	6	0.3	94	5.1
Carter Co.	29	0.6	893	18.5
Casey Co.	19	0.8	150	6.2
Christian Co.	11	0.1	3,141	35.6
Clark Co.	42	0.8	772	14.4

	SY 2007			
	Law violations		Board violations	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Clay Co.	6	0.2	268	7.5
Clinton Co.	3	*	36	2.2
Crittenden Co.	9	0.7	49	3.9
Cumberland Co.	55	5.1	160	14.8
Daviess Co.	69	0.6	553	5.1
Owensboro Ind.	15	0.4	394	10.2
Edmonson Co.	3	*	55	2.8
Elliott Co.	2	*	152	13.3
Estill Co.	15	0.6	362	15.1
Fayette Co.	427	1.3	5,378	16.0
Fleming Co.	9	0.4	373	15.7
Floyd Co.	39	0.6	670	10.7
Franklin Co.	91	1.6	1,805	31.4
Frankfort Ind.	2	*	131	15.7
Fulton Co.	2	*	17	2.7
Fulton Ind.	4	*	127	30.5
Gallatin Co.	7	0.5	381	25.0
Garrard Co.	14	0.6	757	30.0
Grant Co.	31	0.8	527	13.9
Williamstown Ind.	0	*	63	7.3
Graves Co.	17	0.4	120	2.6
Mayfield Ind.	5	*	128	9.0
Grayson Co.	0	*	109	2.7
Green Co.	4	*	99	5.9
Greenup Co.	24	0.8	276	9.1
Raceland Ind.	2	*	26	2.5
Russell Ind.	4	*	151	7.0
Hancock Co.	1	*	12	0.8
Hardin Co.	69	0.5	1,749	13.0
Elizabethtown Ind.	1	*	337	15.0
West Point Ind.	0	*	10	6.8
Harlan Co.	7	0.2	810	18.7
Harlan Ind.	1	*	76	9.3
Harrison Co.	34	1.1	332	10.7
Hart Co.	3	*	242	10.4
Henderson Co.	95	1.4	658	9.7
Henry Co.	20	0.9	141	6.7
Eminence Ind.	1	*	38	6.3
Hickman Co.	0	*	46	6.1
Hopkins Co.	43	0.6	1,223	17.7
Dawson Springs Ind.	0	*	102	15.7
Jackson Co.	1	*	238	10.7
Jefferson Co.	1,442	1.6	12,932	14.1
Anchorage Ind.	0	*	0	*
Jessamine Co.	28	0.4	995	13.9

	SY 2007			
	Law violations		Board violations	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Johnson Co.	26	0.7	228	6.2
Paintsville Ind.	1	*	8	1.1
Kenton Co.	138	1.1	1,224	9.5
Beechwood Ind.	1	*	41	4.1
Covington Ind.	19	0.5	2,106	56.2
Erlanger-Elsmere Ind.	7	0.3	545	24.2
Ludlow Ind.	1	*	100	10.9
Knott Co.	15	0.6	257	10.6
Knox Co.	64	1.4	940	20.0
Barbourville Ind.	3	*	23	3.7
LaRue Co.	15	0.6	187	7.7
Laurel Co.	91	1.0	608	6.8
East Bernstadt Ind.	0	*	4	*
Lawrence Co.	7	0.3	190	7.6
Lee Co.	4	*	269	23.4
Leslie Co.	4	*	41	2.2
Letcher Co.	18	0.6	268	8.2
Jenkins Ind.	5	*	139	24.3
Lewis Co.	14	0.6	334	13.9
Lincoln Co.	20	0.5	410	10.1
Livingston Co.	16	1.2	147	11.3
Logan Co.	18	0.5	65	1.9
Russellville Ind.	4	*	169	15.7
Lyon Co.	0	*	41	4.3
McCracken Co.	7	0.1	621	9.1
Paducah Ind.	1	*	1,308	46.7
McCreary Co.	7	0.2	827	26.5
McLean Co.	13	0.8	58	3.7
Madison Co.	65	0.6	1,000	9.8
Berea Ind.	11	1.1	135	13.3
Magoffin Co.	9	0.4	338	14.7
Marion Co.	1	*	304	9.8
Marshall Co.	33	0.7	256	5.5
Martin Co.	146	6.7	130	6.0
Mason Co.	33	1.2	448	16.2
Meade Co.	24	0.5	431	9.0
Menifee Co.	3	*	50	4.6
Mercer Co.	13	0.4	229	7.2
Burgin Ind.	3	*	14	3.3
Metcalfe Co.	9	0.5	98	5.9
Monroe Co.	11	0.6	108	5.5
Montgomery Co.	38	0.9	604	14.0
Morgan Co.	13	0.6	266	12.4
Muhlenberg Co.	21	0.4	184	3.6
Nelson Co.	24	0.5	330	7.1

	SY 2007			
	Law violations		Board violations	
	Number	Rate	Number	Rate
Bardstown Ind.	1	*	217	10.0
Nicholas Co.	15	1.3	310	26.8
Ohio Co.	0	*	35	0.9
Oldham Co.	144	1.3	177	1.6
Owen Co.	3	*	262	13.7
Owsley Co.	6	0.8	51	6.5
Pendleton Co.	25	0.9	655	23.9
Perry Co.	2	*	463	10.8
Hazard Ind.	6	0.7	60	6.6
Pike Co.	15	0.2	357	3.7
Pikeville Ind.	6	0.5	67	5.5
Powell Co.	36	1.5	311	12.6
Pulaski Co.	64	0.8	479	6.3
Science Hill Ind.	0	*	1	*
Somerset Ind.	7	0.5	194	13.3
Robertson Co.	0	*	50	13.5
Rockcastle Co.	10	0.4	186	6.4
Rowan Co.	42	1.4	401	12.9
Russell Co.	6	0.2	99	3.4
Scott Co.	53	0.7	994	13.8
Shelby Co.	82	1.4	455	7.7
Simpson Co.	8	0.3	378	12.7
Spencer Co.	25	1.0	190	7.4
Taylor Co.	12	0.5	168	6.6
Campbellsville Ind.	19	1.7	98	8.9
Todd Co.	4	*	144	7.2
Trigg Co.	7	0.3	267	13.0
Trimble Co.	18	1.1	340	21.2
Union Co.	54	2.3	189	8.0
Warren Co.	34	0.3	616	5.1
Bowling Green Ind.	6	0.2	389	10.8
Washington Co.	17	1.0	135	7.8
Wayne Co.	42	1.7	198	8.1
Monticello Ind.	2	*	102	12.6
Webster Co.	6	0.3	237	12.8
Providence Ind.	4	*	186	66.2
Whitley Co.	40	0.9	317	7.0
Corbin Ind.	2	*	83	3.5
Williamsburg Ind.	7	0.9	44	5.8
Wolfe Co.	1	*	23	1.8
Woodford Co.	31	0.8	644	16.7

* Rates were not calculated for counties with fewer than 6 occurrences.