

West Virginia School Discipline
Report as Required by
West Virginia Code §18-2-43

July 2022



West Virginia DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION



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2022-2023

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Introduction

The following report provides an overview of the statewide disciplinary data from SY2017-2018 through SY2021-2022. The following supports make up a comprehensive approach to student discipline, from a statewide perspective. While supports are provided at a state level, it is important to note that each county has the ultimate autonomy to select programs, plans, or processes that best fit the needs of individual school communities. Each school also has the duty to record and implement discipline practices. A list of additional county-selected supports can be found [here](#).

Supports for Student Behavior and Student Discipline

- » [Policy 4373: Expected Behavior in Safe and Supportive Schools](#)
- » [West Virginia Multi-Tiered System of Support](#)

Social Emotional/Behavior Supports

- » [WV College and Career Readiness Dispositions and Standards for Student Success](#)
- » [WV Behavior & Mental Health Technical Assistance Center \(BMHTAC\)](#)
- » [Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports \(PBIS\)](#)

Mental Health/Trauma Supports

- » [WV Expanded School Mental Health \(ESMH\)](#)
- » [WV Behavior and Mental Health Technical Assistance Center \(BMHTAC\)](#)
- » [Project AWARE \(ESMH & PBIS\)](#)
- » [Handle with Care](#)
- » [PREPaRE Model Crisis Intervention](#)
- » [Trauma-Informed Elementary Schools \(DHHR\)](#)
- » [24/7 Children's Crisis and Referral Line](#)
- » [Prevent Suicide WV Training \(DHHR\)](#)

Support for At-Risk Students

- » [Communities In Schools \(CIS\)](#)
- » [Homeless Grant / McKinney Vento](#)
- » [West Virginia Schools of Diversion & Transition](#)
- » [Neglected and Delinquent State Agency Program](#)
- » [Neglected and Delinquent Local Educational Agency Program](#)
- » [Guidepost to Graduation](#)

Substance Abuse Prevention

- » [WVBE Policy 2520.5 – WV College and Career Readiness Dispositions and Standards for Wellness Education](#)
- » [WVBE Policy 2520.19 – WV College and Career Readiness Dispositions and standards for Student Success](#)
- » [WV Students Against Destructive Decisions \(SADD\)](#)
- » [WVDHHR Prevention Lead Organizations](#)

Community Partnerships/Initiative

- » [21st CCLC Afterschool Programs](#)
- » [WV Family Engagement Grant](#)
- » [Parent Educator Resource Centers \(PERC\) / Family Engagement Resource Centers \(FERC\)](#)
- » [School Based Health Centers](#)
- » [Lawyers in Schools Programs](#)
- » [DHHR Office of Children, Youth & Families](#)

Data and Analysis on School Discipline

Table 1: Student Enrollment and Subgroups

Table 1 provides information by school year on student subgroups based on total student enrollment. The percentages describe the proportion of the total student population represented by each subgroup. For example, in school year 2019-2020, students identified as Low Socioeconomic Status (SES) represented approximately 47% of the total student population.

Table 1: Student Enrollment and Subgroups						
		SY17-18	SY18-19	SY19-20	SY20-21	SY21-22
Statewide	All Students	270,613	265,755	261,633	252,357	250,899
Gender	Female	48.3%	48.2%	48.3%	48.2%	48.3%
	Male	51.7%	51.8%	51.7%	51.8%	51.7%
Race/Ethnicity	White	90.1%	89.7%	89.5%	89.3%	89.1%
	Black	4.3%	4.2%	4.1%	4.1%	4.0%
	Multi-racial	3.1%	3.4%	3.6%	3.8%	4.1%
	Hispanic/Latino	1.8%	1.9%	2.0%	2.0%	2.1%
	Other Minority	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%	0.8%	0.7%
Special Education	Students without Disabilities	83.3%	82.9%	82.6%	82.3%	82.1%
	Students with Disabilities	16.7%	17.1%	17.4%	17.7%	17.9%
Socioeconomic Status	Not Low SES	50.8%	52.5%	53.1%	52.1%	50.0%
	Low SES	49.2%	47.5%	46.9%	47.9%	50.0%
Foster Care Status (EOY)	Not in Care	97.9%	97.8%	97.8%	98.5%	
	Foster Care	2.1%	2.2%	2.2%	1.5%	

Table 2: Population Distribution of Disciplinary Referrals Overall and by Incident Severity Level

Table 2 provides information by school year on discipline referrals, including breakdowns by incident severity level and student subgroup information. The percentages describe the proportion of all referrals (either overall or by severity level) that involved students in the identified subgroup. For example, in school year 2018-2019 of all Level 2 Referrals, approximately 73% involved students without disabilities.

Table 2: Population Distribution of Disciplinary Referrals						
Disciplinary Referrals		All Referrals	Incident Severity Level			
			Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
2017-2018	All Referrals	205,140	127,337	57,519	18,108	2,176
Gender	Female	25.4%	26.3%	24.6%	22.0%	26.5%
	Male	74.6%	73.7%	75.4%	78.0%	73.5%
Race/Ethnicity	White	84.6%	85.0%	83.4%	85.3%	83.7%
	Black	9.7%	9.3%	10.7%	9.7%	9.1%
	Multi-racial	3.8%	3.7%	4.0%	3.3%	4.9%
	Hispanic/Latino	1.6%	1.6%	1.6%	1.4%	2.0%
	Other Minority	0.3%	0.4%	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%
Special Education	Students without Disabilities	77.1%	80.9%	72.2%	67.7%	60.5%
	Students with Disabilities	22.9%	19.1%	27.8%	32.3%	39.5%
Socioeconomic Status	Not Low SES	30.9%	32.4%	28.7%	27.6%	28.4%
	Low SES	69.1%	67.6%	71.3%	72.4%	71.6%
Foster Care Status	Not in Care	94.6%	95.1%	94.1%	93.1%	91.5%
	Foster Care	5.4%	4.9%	5.9%	6.9%	8.5%
2018-2019	All Referrals	210,444	129,354	57,568	21,257	2,265
Gender	Female	26.5%	27.6%	24.9%	23.6%	28.3%
	Male	73.5%	72.4%	75.1%	76.4%	71.7%

Table 2: Population Distribution of Disciplinary Referrals

Disciplinary Referrals		All Referrals	Incident Severity Level			
			Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Race/Ethnicity	White	84.1%	84.0%	83.7%	85.7%	82.8%
	Black	9.7%	9.7%	10.1%	8.6%	10.7%
	Multi-racial	4.2%	4.2%	4.1%	4.0%	4.4%
	Hispanic/Latino	1.8%	1.8%	1.8%	1.4%	1.9%
	Other Minority	0.3%	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%
Special Education	Students without Disabilities	77.0%	80.5%	72.7%	68.7%	56.6%
	Students with Disabilities	23.0%	19.5%	27.3%	31.3%	43.4%
Socioeconomic Status	Not Low SES	42.9%	44.2%	41.2%	40.0%	42.2%
	Low SES	57.1%	55.8%	58.8%	60.0%	57.8%
Foster Care Status	Not in Care	95.0%	95.4%	94.5%	93.6%	91.6%
	Foster Care	5.0%	4.6%	5.5%	6.4%	8.4%
2019-2020	All Referrals	170,041	106,475	44,757	16,882	1,927
Gender	Female	26.6%	27.7%	24.7%	24.0%	29.2%
	Male	73.4%	72.3%	75.3%	76.0%	70.8%
Race/Ethnicity	White	82.6%	82.1%	83.2%	84.9%	82.8%
	Black	10.6%	10.9%	10.2%	9.0%	9.7%
	Multi-racial	4.8%	4.9%	4.8%	4.4%	5.7%
	Hispanic/Latino	1.7%	1.8%	1.6%	1.4%	1.4%
	Other Minority	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%	0.3%	0.3%
Special Education	Students without Disabilities	75.7%	79.5%	70.9%	65.8%	57.1%
	Students with Disabilities	24.3%	20.5%	29.1%	34.2%	42.9%

Table 2: Population Distribution of Disciplinary Referrals

Disciplinary Referrals		All Referrals	Incident Severity Level			
			Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
Socioeconomic Status	Not Low SES	30.9%	32.2%	29.2%	27.4%	27.4%
	Low SES	69.1%	67.8%	70.8%	72.6%	72.6%
Foster Care Status	Not in Care	94.8%	95.2%	94.3%	93.7%	92.0%
	Foster Care	5.2%	4.8%	5.7%	6.3%	8.0%
2020-2021	All Referrals	45,463	26,271	13,103	5,520	569
Gender	Female	27.5%	28.3%	25.7%	28.0%	24.8%
	Male	72.5%	71.7%	74.3%	72.0%	75.2%
Race/Ethnicity	White	84.2%	83.3%	84.9%	87.5%	83.0%
	Black	9.2%	10.1%	8.7%	6.2%	8.4%
	Multi-racial	4.9%	5.0%	5.0%	4.7%	6.7%
	Hispanic/Latino	1.3%	1.4%	1.1%	1.4%	1.1%
	Other Minority	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%	0.9%
Special Education	Students without Disabilities	72.8%	75.5%	70.1%	67.9%	56.8%
	Students with Disabilities	27.2%	24.5%	29.9%	32.1%	43.2%
Socioeconomic Status	Not Low SES	31.6%	33.1%	30.4%	27.5%	29.0%
	Low SES	68.4%	66.9%	69.6%	72.5%	71.0%
Foster Care Status	Not in Care	96.5%	96.8%	96.3%	95.5%	95.4%
	Foster Care	3.5%	3.2%	3.7%	4.5%	4.6%

Table 2: Population Distribution of Disciplinary Referrals

Disciplinary Referrals		Incident Severity Level				
		All Referrals	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
2021-2022	All Referrals	173,455	107,250	45,400	18,738	2,067
Gender	Female	30.0%	30.9%	28.1%	29.8%	28.9%
	Male	70.0%	69.1%	71.9%	70.2%	71.1%
Race/Ethnicity	White	81.9%	81.2%	82.4%	84.9%	84.0%
	Black	10.2%	10.9%	9.7%	8.1%	7.8%
	Multi-racial	5.6%	5.6%	5.8%	5.0%	6.1%
	Hispanic/Latino	1.9%	1.9%	1.9%	1.6%	1.5%
	Other Minority	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%	0.5%
Special Education	Students without Disabilities	75.2%	78.0%	71.6%	68.7%	63.8%
	Students with Disabilities	24.8%	22.0%	28.4%	31.3%	36.2%
Socioeconomic Status	Not Low SES	34.5%	35.4%	33.6%	31.5%	32.3%
	Low SES	65.5%	64.6%	66.4%	68.5%	67.7%
Foster Care Status	Not in Care	--	--	--	--	--
	Foster Care	--	--	--	--	--

**Table 3: Intervention Categories Overall and by Incident Severity Level
(for referrals where action was warranted)**

Table 3 provides information by school year about the intervention/actions taken for referrals where actions were warranted, including incident severity level and intervention/action category. The percentages describe the proportion of all interventions/actions accounted for by the specified category. For example, in school year 2017-2018, approximately 13% of all interventions for Level 4 behavior referrals resulted in “Other Interventions” that did not remove students from learning or social opportunities (e.g., referrals for counseling or other services).

Table 3: Intervention Categories Overall and by Incident Severity Level						
Intervention Categories for Referrals	Total Actions/ Interventions	All Actions/ Interventions	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
2017-2018	201,772	201,772	124,777	56,861	17,983	2,151
Alternative Education Placement	498	0.25%	0.09%	0.27%	0.75%	4.56%
Detention	72,045	35.71%	45.39%	24.08%	9.50%	0.60%
In-School Suspension	35,131	17.41%	15.75%	21.14%	18.87%	2.98%
Out-of-School Suspension	33,479	16.59%	6.37%	26.80%	48.64%	71.73%
Expulsion	285	0.14%	0.00%	0.04%	0.51%	7.58%
Other Interventions	60,334	29.90%	32.40%	27.67%	21.73%	12.55%
2018-2019	207,338	207,338	127,025	56,930	21,133	2,250
Alternative Education Placement	574	0.28%	0.08%	0.34%	0.80%	5.07%
Detention	75,020	36.18%	46.16%	24.84%	10.56%	0.62%
In-School Suspension	38,064	18.36%	16.44%	22.04%	21.47%	4.40%
Out-of-School Suspension	32,807	15.82%	5.59%	25.34%	46.11%	68.04%
Expulsion	264	0.13%	0.00%	0.03%	0.37%	7.33%
Other Interventions	60,609	29.23%	31.73%	27.41%	20.69%	14.53%
2019-2020	167,076	167,076	105,410	43,429	16,343	1,894
Alternative Education Placement	370	0.22%	0.07%	0.21%	0.60%	5.76%
Detention	59,687	35.72%	45.37%	23.78%	9.28%	0.84%
In-School Suspension	30,314	18.14%	15.78%	23.45%	21.02%	3.54%
Out-of-School Suspension	24,147	14.45%	5.34%	22.30%	46.42%	66.10%
Expulsion	185	0.11%	0.00%	0.03%	0.30%	6.34%
Other Interventions	52,373	31.35%	33.44%	30.24%	22.38%	17.42%

Table 3: Intervention Categories Overall and by Incident Severity Level

Intervention Categories for Referrals	Total Actions/ Interventions	All Actions/ Interventions	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4
2020-2021	44,682	44,682	26,112	12,695	5,307	568
Alternative Education Placement	157	0.35%	0.16%	0.22%	0.85%	7.22%
Detention	11,217	25.10%	32.23%	19.02%	7.24%	0.70%
In-School Suspension	8,651	19.36%	17.75%	20.95%	25.10%	4.23%
Out-of-School Suspension	7,986	17.87%	6.86%	26.56%	46.13%	66.20%
Expulsion	42	0.09%	0.01%	0.02%	0.24%	4.23%
Other Interventions	16,629	37.22%	42.99%	33.24%	20.44%	17.43%
2021-2022	170,188	170,188	106,351	43,754	18,026	2,057
Alternative Education Placement	386	0.23%	0.08%	0.19%	0.74%	4.33%
Detention	52,355	30.76%	39.55%	20.31%	7.76%	0.44%
In-School Suspension	32,613	19.16%	17.93%	21.58%	22.31%	3.99%
Out-of-School Suspension	30,011	17.63%	6.70%	27.70%	51.03%	76.08%
Expulsion	157	0.09%	0.00%	0.02%	0.23%	5.06%
Other Interventions	54,666	32.12%	35.74%	30.19%	17.95%	10.11%

Table 4: Population Distribution of Disciplinary Intervention Categories

Table 4 provides information by school year on discipline intervention/action categories for each student subgroup. The percentages describe the proportion of the interventions/actions in each category that involved students in the specified subgroup. For example, in school year 2018-2019, female students were involved in approximately 27% of all expulsions for the year.

Table 4: Population Distribution of Discipline Intervention Categories								
Intervention Categories within Population	All Actions/ Interventions	Alternative Education Placement	Detention	In-School Suspension	Out-of-School Suspension	Expulsion	Other Interventions	
Gender	Female	25.3%	24.1%	25.6%	24.8%	24.1%	21.8%	25.9%
	Male	74.7%	75.9%	74.4%	75.2%	75.9%	78.2%	74.1%
Race/Ethnicity	White	84.5%	91.0%	86.8%	83.5%	83.1%	84.9%	83.2%
	Black	9.7%	5.4%	8.1%	10.2%	11.3%	8.4%	10.6%
	Multi-racial	3.8%	2.2%	3.3%	4.0%	3.9%	4.6%	4.3%
	Hispanic/Latino	1.6%	1.4%	1.5%	2.1%	1.5%	1.8%	1.6%
	Other Minority	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%	0.2%	0.2%	0.4%	0.3%
Special Education	Students without Disabilities	77.0%	72.7%	83.2%	73.3%	68.1%	74.0%	76.8%
	Students with Disabilities	23.0%	27.3%	16.8%	26.7%	31.9%	26.0%	23.2%
Socioeconomic Status	Not Low SES	30.9%	26.5%	35.4%	30.3%	25.0%	26.7%	29.3%
	Low SES	69.1%	73.5%	64.6%	69.7%	75.0%	73.3%	70.7%
Foster Care Status	Not in Care	94.6%	87.3%	95.4%	94.5%	92.3%	85.3%	95.1%
	Foster Care	5.4%	12.7%	4.6%	5.5%	7.7%	14.7%	4.9%

Table 4: Population Distribution of Discipline Intervention Categories

Intervention Categories within Population		All Actions/ Interventions	Alternative Education Placement	Detention	In-School Suspension	Out-of-School Suspension	Expulsion	Other Interventions
2018-2019	All Actions/ Interventions	207,338	574	75,020	38,064	32,807	264	60,609
Gender	Female	26.4%	23.3%	26.9%	25.2%	24.7%	26.5%	27.4%
	Male	73.6%	76.7%	73.1%	74.8%	75.3%	73.5%	72.6%
Race /Ethnicity	White	84.0%	91.6%	85.4%	83.7%	83.8%	90.2%	82.6%
	Black	9.7%	5.4%	8.6%	9.4%	10.1%	4.2%	10.9%
	Multi-racial	4.2%	1.7%	3.8%	4.6%	4.3%	4.9%	4.5%
	Hispanic/Latino	1.8%	1.2%	1.8%	2.1%	1.5%	0.4%	1.7%
	Other Minority	0.3%	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%	0.4%	0.3%
Special Education	Students without Disabilities	76.9%	72.5%	83.0%	73.3%	68.2%	75.4%	76.5%
	Students with Disabilities	23.1%	27.5%	17.0%	26.7%	31.8%	24.6%	23.5%
Socioeconomic Status	Not Low SES	42.9%	39.5%	47.0%	42.5%	36.9%	39.4%	41.4%
	Low SES	57.1%	60.5%	53.0%	57.5%	63.1%	60.6%	58.6%
Foster Care Status	Not in Care	95.0%	90.2%	96.2%	94.7%	92.8%	87.9%	94.9%
	Foster Care	5.0%	9.8%	3.8%	5.3%	7.2%	12.1%	5.1%

Table 4: Population Distribution of Discipline Intervention Categories

Intervention Categories within Population		All Actions/ Interventions	Alternative Education Placement	Detention	In-School Suspension	Out-of-School Suspension	Expulsion	Other Interventions
2019-2020	All Actions/ Interventions	167,076	370	59,687	30,314	24,147	185	52,373
Gender	Female	26.5%	23.0%	26.8%	25.6%	25.2%	26.5%	27.1%
	Male	73.5%	77.0%	73.2%	74.4%	74.8%	73.5%	72.9%
Race/Ethnicity	White	82.6%	92.7%	84.5%	81.4%	83.6%	88.6%	80.6%
	Black	10.6%	4.1%	9.2%	10.9%	9.8%	5.4%	12.4%
	Multi-racial	4.8%	3.0%	4.4%	5.3%	4.9%	3.8%	5.1%
	Hispanic/Latino	1.7%	0.3%	1.6%	2.2%	1.4%	1.6%	1.6%
	Other Minority	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%	0.5%	0.3%
Special Education	Students without Disabilities	75.6%	75.9%	81.9%	71.9%	65.8%	78.9%	75.2%
	Students with Disabilities	24.4%	24.1%	18.1%	28.1%	34.2%	21.1%	24.8%
Socioeconomic Status	Not Low SES	30.8%	24.1%	35.1%	29.5%	24.9%	27.6%	29.5%
	Low SES	69.2%	75.9%	64.9%	70.5%	75.1%	72.4%	70.5%
Foster Care Status	Not in Care	94.8%	88.9%	95.7%	94.8%	92.2%	89.7%	95.0%
	Foster Care	5.2%	11.1%	4.3%	5.2%	7.8%	10.3%	5.0%

Table 4: Population Distribution of Discipline Intervention Categories

Intervention Categories within Population		All Actions/ Interventions	Alternative Education Placement	Detention	In-School Suspension	Out-of-School Suspension	Expulsion	Other Interventions
2020-2021		44,682	157	11,217	8,651	7,986	42	16,629
Gender								
	Female	27.4%	21.0%	26.6%	26.4%	26.2%	16.7%	29.0%
	Male	72.6%	79.0%	73.4%	73.6%	73.8%	83.3%	71.0%
Race/Ethnicity								
	White	84.2%	95.5%	87.8%	85.3%	84.6%	85.7%	80.9%
	Black	9.3%	1.3%	6.4%	8.3%	8.6%	7.1%	12.1%
	Multi-racial	4.9%	3.2%	4.1%	4.5%	5.3%	4.8%	5.5%
	Hispanic/Latino	1.3%		1.3%	1.5%	1.3%	2.4%	1.2%
	Other Minority	0.3%		0.3%	0.3%	0.3%		0.3%
Special Education								
	Students without Disabilities	72.9%	74.5%	77.2%	71.2%	66.6%	76.2%	73.8%
	Students with Disabilities	27.1%	25.5%	22.8%	28.8%	33.4%	23.8%	26.2%
Socioeconomic Status								
	Not Low SES	31.5%	26.8%	35.8%	30.0%	26.5%	16.7%	32.0%
	Low SES	68.5%	73.2%	64.2%	70.0%	73.5%	83.3%	68.0%
Foster Care Status								
	Not in Care	96.5%	91.1%	97.0%	96.6%	95.4%	95.2%	96.6%
	Foster Care	3.5%	8.9%	3.0%	3.4%	4.6%	4.8%	3.4%

Table 4: Population Distribution of Discipline Intervention Categories

Intervention Categories within Population		All Actions/ Interventions	Alternative Education Placement	Detention	In-School Suspension	Out-of-School Suspension	Expulsion	Other Interventions
2018-2019	All Actions/ Interventions	207,338	574	75,020	38,064	32,807	264	60,609
Gender	Female	29.9%	31.6%	29.0%	29.5%	28.6%	26.1%	31.6%
	Male	70.1%	68.4%	71.0%	70.5%	71.4%	73.9%	68.4%
Race/Ethnicity	White	81.9%	93.0%	84.2%	82.2%	82.6%	86.6%	79.1%
	Black	10.2%	4.1%	8.6%	9.4%	9.8%	8.3%	12.6%
	MultiRacial	5.6%	2.1%	5.2%	5.7%	5.5%	2.5%	6.0%
	Hispanic/Latino	1.9%	0.8%	1.6%	2.3%	1.7%	1.9%	2.0%
	Other Minority	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%	0.6%	0.4%
Special Education	Students without Disabilities	75.2%	67.9%	81.0%	72.1%	67.7%	75.2%	75.7%
	Students with Disabilities	24.8%	32.1%	19.0%	27.9%	32.3%	24.8%	24.3%
Socioeconomic Status	Not Low SES	34.5%	30.1%	39.0%	32.9%	30.0%	31.8%	33.6%
	Low SES	65.5%	69.9%	61.0%	67.1%	70.0%	68.2%	66.4%
Foster Care Status	Not in Care							
	Foster Care							



W. Clayton Burch
West Virginia Superintendent of Schools