

# NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STUDENT SAFETY ACT DATA: SCHOOL YEAR 2017-2018



Every October 31<sup>st</sup>, the New York City Department of Education is required to release [Student Safety Act](#) data for the previous school year, making public the use of suspensions and classroom removals<sup>1</sup> in New York City public schools. [The latest numbers](#) show that the use of suspensions grew 4.1% and classroom removals grew 11.4% during the 2017-2018 school year compared to the year before, a discouraging development that comes after years of steady decline in the City's reliance on exclusionary discipline. This new collection of data also followed an announcement made by the Department of Education in March reporting that the use of suspensions had increased by 20.9% in the first half of the school year alone, compared to the same period the prior year.

Just one day before the data was released, students [rallied](#) to raise alarm in response to new information from the [Independent Budget Office](#) showing that in the 2016-2017 school year Black students received longer suspensions on average for 8 of the top 10 infractions in the Discipline Code, and for three infractions in particular Black students were suspended for roughly twice the number of days as other students. While the Student Safety Act data does not disaggregate suspension duration by student race or infraction type, New York City students continue to bring these disparities to light.

This new Student Safety Act data reports 49,293 total classroom removals and suspensions, where Black students were 3.4 times more likely to be suspended and 3.7 times more likely to be removed multiple times than white students – the same rates of disproportionality as the 2016-2017 school year. While suspensions of 30 days or longer have decreased 28.7% as compared to the year prior, racial disparities remain and Black students were 5.0 times more likely to receive a long-term suspension than white students in the 2017-2018 school year, compared to 5.1 times more likely in the 2016-2017 school year. In marked contrast, schools in District 18 currently participating in the District 18 Restorative Practices Pilot experienced close to a 19% *decrease* in reported removals and suspensions.<sup>2</sup>

As the District 18 results show, to end racial disparities in school discipline and the reliance on harmful and exclusionary discipline policies, the Department of Education must invest in a more comprehensive plan to support restorative justice models in schools, and provide tools and resources to educators, students, and their communities that can best prevent and respond to conflict that happens in schools.

<b>SCHOOL EXCLUSIONS</b>	<i>SY 2017-2018</i>	<i>SY 2016-2017</i>	<i>Year to Year Change</i>	
Total Suspensions	36,668	35,234	+1,434	+4.1%
Short-Term Suspensions <sup>3</sup>	26,578	25,696	+882	+3.4%
Long-Term Suspensions <sup>4</sup>	10,090	9,538	+552	+5.8%
Classroom Removals	12,625	11,337	+1,288	+11.4%
All Exclusions	49,293	46,571	+2,722	+5.8%

<b>CITYWIDE STUDENT POPULATION</b>	<i>SY 2017-2018</i>	<i>SY 2016-2017</i>
Asian Students	16.1%	15.8%
Black Students	26.0%	26.5%
Latinx Students	40.5%	40.4%
White Students	15.0%	14.9%
Multiple Race Categories Not Represented	2.5%	2.3%

<b>CLASSROOM REMOVALS</b>	<i>SY 2017-2018</i>		<i>SY 2016-2017</i>		<i>Year to Year Change</i>	
American Indian/Alaskan Native	128	1.0%	98	0.9%	+30	+30.6%
Asian	573	4.5%	484	4.3%	+89	+18.4%
Black	5,557	44.0%	5,154	45.5%	+403	+7.8%
Latinx	4,976	39.4%	4,477	39.5%	+499	+11.1%
White	1,279	10.1%	1,035	9.1%	+244	+23.6%
Multi-Racial	86	0.7%	77	0.7%	+9	+11.7%
Unknown	26	0.2%	12	0.1%	+14	+116.7%

<b>SHORT-TERM SUSPENSIONS</b>	<i>SY 2017-2018</i>		<i>SY 2016-2017</i>		<i>Year to Year Change</i>	
American Indian/Alaskan Native	258	1.0%	226	0.9%	+32	+14.2%
Asian	1,415	5.3%	1,356	5.3%	+59	+4.4%
Black	11,561	43.5%	11,565	45.0%	-4	0.0%
Latinx	10,720	40.3%	10,023	39.0%	+697	+7.0%
White	2,393	9.0%	2,313	9.0%	+80	+3.5%
Multi-Racial	119	0.4%	110	0.4%	+9	+8.2%
Unknown	112	0.4%	103	0.4%	+9	+8.7%

<b>LONG-TERM SUSPENSIONS</b>	<i>SY 2017-2018</i>		<i>SY 2016-2017</i>		<i>Year to Year Change</i>	
American Indian/Alaskan Native	93	0.9%	67	0.7%	+26	+38.8%
Asian	378	3.7%	320	3.4%	+58	+18.1%
Black	5,204	51.6%	4,964	52.0%	+240	+4.8%
Latinx	3,728	36.9%	3,562	37.3%	+166	+4.7%
White	607	6.0%	553	5.8%	+54	+9.8%
Multi-Racial	50	0.5%	44	0.5%	+6	+13.6%
Unknown	30	0.3%	28	0.3%	+2	+7.1%

<b>ALL SUSPENSIONS</b>	<i>SY 2017-2018</i>		<i>SY 2016-2017</i>		<i>Year to Year Change</i>	
American Indian/Alaskan Native	351	1.0%	293	0.8%	+58	+19.8%
Asian	1,793	4.9%	1,676	4.8%	+117	+7.0%
Black	16,765	45.7%	16,529	46.9%	+236	+1.4%
Latinx	14,448	39.4%	13,585	38.6%	+863	+6.4%
White	3,000	8.2%	2,866	8.1%	+134	+4.7%
Multi-Racial	169	0.5%	154	0.4%	+15	+9.7%
Unknown	142	0.4%	131	0.4%	+11	+8.4%

<b>REPORTED GENDER: "MALE"</b>	SY 2017-2018*		SY 2016-2017		Year to Year Change	
Classroom Removals	9,793	77.6%	8,613	76.0%	+1,180	+13.7%
Short-Term Suspensions	17,786	66.9%	17,208	67.0%	+578	+3.4%
Long-Term Suspensions	6,998	69.4%	6,596	69.2%	+402	+6.1%
All Suspensions	24,784	67.6%	23,804	67.6%	+980	+4.1%

\*Students categorized as male represented 51.4% of the student population.

<b>REPORTED GENDER: "FEMALE"</b>	SY 2017-2018*		SY 2016-2017		Year to Year Change	
Classroom Removals	2,832	22.4%	2,724	24.0%	+108	+4.0%
Short-Term Suspensions	8,792	33.1%	8,488	33.0%	+304	+3.6%
Long-Term Suspensions	3,092	30.6%	2,942	30.8%	+150	+5.1%
All Suspensions	11,884	32.4%	11,430	32.4%	+454	+4.0%

\*Students categorized as female represented 48.6% of the student population.

<b>STUDENTS WITH IEPs</b>	SY 2017-2018*		SY 2016-2017		Year to Year Change	
Classroom Removals	5,370	42.5%	4,638	40.9%	+732	+15.8%
Short-Term Suspensions	10,313	38.8%	9,624	37.5%	+689	+7.2%
Long-Term Suspensions	4,377	43.4%	4,084	42.8%	+293	+7.2%
All Suspensions	14,690	40.1%	13,708	38.9%	+982	+7.2%

\*Students with IEPs represented 19.7% of the student population.

<b>"ELL" STUDENTS</b>	SY 2017-2018*		SY 2016-2017		Year to Year Change	
Classroom Removals	1,307	10.4%	1,172	10.3%	+135	+11.5%
Short-Term Suspensions	3,175	11.9%	2,874	11.2%	+301	+10.5%
Long-Term Suspensions	1,036	10.3%	834	8.7%	+202	+24.2%
All Suspensions	4,211	11.5%	3,708	10.5%	+503	+13.6%

\*Students learning English as an additional language represented 13.5% of the student population.

<b>STUDENTS IN TEMPORARY HOUSING</b>	SY 2017-2018*		SY 2016-2017		Year to Year Change	
Classroom Removals	2,077	16.5%	1,787	15.8%	+290	+16.2%
Short-Term Suspensions	3,454	13.0%	3,200	12.5%	+254	+7.9%
Long-Term Suspensions	1,665	16.5%	1,522	16.0%	+143	+9.4%
All Suspensions	5,119	14.0%	4,722	13.4%	+397	+8.4%

\*Students in Temporary Housing represented 9.2% of the student population.<sup>5</sup>

<b>CLASSROOM REMOVALS BY GRADE</b>	<i>SY 2017-2018</i>		<i>SY 2016-2017</i>		<i>Year to Year Change</i>	
Kindergarten	441	3.5%	403	3.6%	+38	+9.4%
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	804	6.4%	671	5.9%	+133	+19.8%
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	1,147	9.1%	919	8.1%	+228	+24.8%
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	1,085	8.6%	1,070	9.4%	+15	+1.4%
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	1,161	9.2%	886	7.8%	+275	+31.0%
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	1,346	10.7%	1,099	9.7%	+247	+22.5%
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	1,428	11.3%	1,390	12.3%	+38	+2.7%
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	1,828	14.5%	1,567	13.8%	+261	+16.7%
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	1,496	11.8%	1,561	13.8%	-65	-4.2%
9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	812	6.4%	712	6.3%	+100	+14.0%
10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	532	4.2%	528	4.7%	+4	+0.8%
11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	361	2.9%	338	3.0%	+23	+6.8%
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	184	1.5%	193	1.7%	-9	-4.7%

<b>SHORT-TERM SUSPENSIONS BY GRADE</b>	<i>SY 2017-2018</i>		<i>SY 2016-2017</i>		<i>Year to Year Change</i>	
Kindergarten	9	0.0%	48	0.2%	-39	-81.3%
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	25	0.1%	63	0.2%	-38	-60.3%
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	36	0.1%	130	0.5%	-94	-72.3%
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	313	1.2%	295	1.1%	+18	+6.1%
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	677	2.5%	622	2.4%	+55	+8.8%
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	871	3.3%	797	3.1%	+74	+9.3%
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	2,641	9.9%	2,387	9.3%	+254	+10.6%
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	3,454	13.0%	2,835	11.0%	+619	+21.8%
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	2,987	11.2%	2,981	11.6%	+6	+0.2%
9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	5,976	22.5%	6,094	23.7%	-118	-1.9%
10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	4,972	18.7%	4,680	18.2%	+292	+6.2%
11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	2,755	10.4%	2,820	11.0%	-65	-2.3%
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	1,862	7.0%	1,944	7.6%	-82	-4.2%

<b>LONG-TERM SUSPENSIONS BY GRADE</b>	<i>SY 2017-2018</i>		<i>SY 2016-2017</i>		<i>Year to Year Change</i>	
Kindergarten	0	0%	9	0.1%	-9	-100.0%
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	0	0%	19	0.2%	-19	-100.0%
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	0	0%	59	0.6%	-59	-100.0%
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	151	1.5%	115	1.2%	+36	+31.3%
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	291	2.9%	309	3.2%	-18	-5.8%
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	398	3.9%	374	3.9%	+24	+6.4%
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	1,027	10.2%	893	9.4%	+134	+15.0%
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	1,639	16.2%	1,445	15.1%	+194	+13.4%
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	1,672	16.6%	1,833	19.2%	-161	-8.8%
9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	1,848	18.3%	1,680	17.6%	+168	+10.0%
10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	1,524	15.1%	1,356	14.2%	+168	+12.4%
11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	935	9.3%	843	8.8%	+92	+10.9%
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	605	6.0%	603	6.3%	+2	+0.3%

<b>ALL SUSPENSIONS BY GRADE</b>	<i>SY 2017-2018</i>		<i>SY 2016-2017</i>		<i>Year to Year Change</i>	
Kindergarten	9	0.0%	57	0.2%	-48	-84.2%
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	25	0.1%	82	0.2%	-57	-69.5%
2 <sup>nd</sup> Grade	36	0.1%	189	0.5%	-153	-81.0%
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	464	1.3%	410	1.2%	+54	+13.2%
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	968	2.6%	931	2.6%	+37	+4.0%
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	1,269	3.5%	1,171	3.3%	+98	+8.4%
6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	3,668	10.0%	3,280	9.3%	+388	+11.8%
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	5,093	13.9%	4,280	12.1%	+813	+19.0%
8 <sup>th</sup> Grade	4,659	12.7%	4,814	13.7%	-155	-3.2%
9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	7,824	21.3%	7,774	22.1%	+50	+0.6%
10 <sup>th</sup> Grade	6,496	17.7%	6,036	17.1%	+460	+7.6%
11 <sup>th</sup> Grade	3,690	10.1%	3,663	10.4%	+27	+0.7%
12 <sup>th</sup> Grade	2,467	6.7%	2,547	7.2%	-80	-3.1%

<b>CLASSROOM REMOVALS BY LENGTH</b>	<i>SY 2017-2018</i>		<i>SY 2016-2017</i>		<i>Year to Year Change</i>	
	1 Day	7,016	55.6%	5,810	51.2%	+1,206
2 Days	2,816	22.3%	2,806	24.8%	+10	+0.4%
3 Days	1,677	13.3%	1,656	14.6%	+21	+1.3%
4 Days	1,116	8.8%	1,065	9.4%	+51	+4.8%

<b>SHORT-TERM SUSPENSIONS BY LENGTH</b>	<i>SY 2017-2018</i>		<i>SY 2016-2017</i>		<i>Year to Year Change</i>	
	1 Day	3,168	11.9%	3,017	11.7%	+151
2 Days	5,786	21.8%	5,218	20.3%	+568	+10.9%
3 Days	7,061	26.6%	7,010	27.3%	+51	+0.7%
4 Days	1,602	6.0%	Missing	N/A	N/A	N/A
5 Days	8,961	33.7%	8,942	34.8%	+19	+0.2%

<b>LONG-TERM SUSPENSIONS BY LENGTH</b>	<i>SY 2017-2018</i>		<i>SY 2016-2017</i>		<i>Year to Year Change</i>	
	Immediate Reinstatement	137	1.4%	52	0.5%	+85
4 Days	Redacted <sup>6</sup>	N/A	6	0.1%	N/A	N/A
5 Days	409	4.1%	726	7.6%	-317	-43.7%
6 to 10 Days	4,593	45.5%	4,713	49.4%	-120	-2.5%
11 to 29 Days	2,569	25.5%	809	8.5%	+1,760	+217.6%
30 Days	599	5.9%	1,580	16.6%	-981	-62.1%
31 to 44 Days	891	8.8%	563	5.9%	+328	+58.3%
45 Days	108	1.1%	138	1.4%	-30	-21.7%
46 to 59 Days	321	3.2%	366	3.8%	-45	-12.3%
60 Days	103	1.0%	122	1.3%	-19	-15.6%
61 to 89 Days	166	1.6%	247	2.6%	-81	-32.8%
90 Days	94	0.9%	89	0.9%	+5	+5.6%
91 to 179 Days	Redacted	N/A	N/A <sup>7</sup>	N/A	N/A	N/A
180 Days	12	0.1%	118	1.2%	-106	-89.8%

The Student Safety Act data referenced above can be accessed here:  
<https://infohub.nyced.org/reports-and-policies/government/intergovernmental-affairs/suspension-reports>

For more information, please contact Charlotte Pope at [cpope@childrensdefense.org](mailto:cpoppe@childrensdefense.org).

Endnotes:

<sup>1</sup> A classroom removal is a process where a teacher requests a student be removed from the classroom consistent with the Discipline Code, where removed students are sent to a location within the school where they are supposed to be provided with continued instructional services. For more information, view the Discipline Code:

<https://www.schools.nyc.gov/school-life/rules-for-students/discipline-code>.

<sup>2</sup> Because of school-level redactions in the data, this is an approximate number.

<sup>3</sup> Short-term suspensions are known as “principal’s suspensions” and refer to suspensions lasting 1 to 5 school days.

<sup>4</sup> Long-term suspensions are known as “superintendent’s suspensions” and refer to suspensions exceeding five school days, with the exception of a superintendent’s suspension with immediate reinstatement to the suspending school. For more information, view the Discipline Code: <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/school-life/rules-for-students/discipline-code>.

<sup>5</sup> See <http://www.communityschools.nyc/resources/newsletters>.

<sup>6</sup> Reporting of 1 to 5 instances are redacted from all reporting data and marked “R” in the data.

<sup>7</sup> The 91 to 179 day option was not reported in the 2016-2017 school year data.