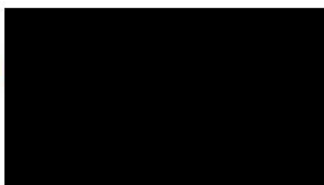




11 DEC 2017



Thank you for your email of 9 November 2017 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

- *All stand down, suspension, exclusion and expulsion data for secondary school foreign fee-paying students (i.e. international secondary school students) over the past decade.*
- *I expect this data will include information such as: the number of secondary school international students affected by each of these disciplinary actions per year, the nationalities of the students involved, the reasons for each of these disciplinary actions etc.*

Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). We apologise your request of 23 September 2017 was not responded to earlier.

In New Zealand schools, international students are given the same education opportunities as non-fee paying students. This means they are able to participate in all areas of school life. Schools are also required to provide pastoral care for international students and to ensure care and support systems are in place while they remain in New Zealand.

There are many reasons why schools might stand-down, suspend, exclude, and expel a student. Trends in stand-downs, suspensions, exclusions and expulsions are not necessarily reflective of trends in student behaviour. They also reflect schools' reactions to student behaviours and what one school may suspend for, another may not.

A stand-down is the removal of a student for a period of up to five days. The school principal makes this decision. A suspension is the formal removal of a student from a school until the school Board of Trustees decides the outcome at a meeting. The Board may decide to lift the suspension (with or without conditions), extend the suspension, or terminate the student's enrolment at the school. If a student's enrolment is terminated, this is known as exclusion if the student is under 16 years of age or as an expulsion if the student is over 16 years of age.

We know that difficult behaviours can hinder learning and disrupt school life. That's why in the past financial year we spent about \$95 million over and above special education grants, on behaviour assistance for about 10,000 children. This includes children receiving help from the Severe Behaviour Service and from specialist teachers in learning and behaviour.

We have a number of programmes and resources to ensure our most vulnerable students stay in school longer and are more engaged in learning. Our Positive Behaviour for Learning (PB4L) programme is now in around 800 schools, including around half of the country's secondary schools. Thousands of young people are reaping the benefits.

I am releasing to you data recording the number of stand-downs, suspensions, exclusion and expulsions for international students studying in New Zealand secondary schools, for the years 2006 – 2016. This data has been attached to this response as **Appendix A**. Please note that values less than 5 have been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of students. We are unable to provide further break-down of this data as it may lead to individual students being identified. Rows containing predominantly suppressed values have been removed.

Further information about stand-downs, suspensions, exclusions, and expulsions can be found on the Education Counts website at the following link: [www.educationcounts.govt.nz/statistics/indicators/main/student-engagement-participation/Stand-downs-suspensions-exclusions-expulsions](http://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/statistics/indicators/main/student-engagement-participation/Stand-downs-suspensions-exclusions-expulsions).

Information about International students in New Zealand can also be found on Education Counts at: [www.educationcounts.govt.nz/statistics/international-education/international-students-in-new-zealand](http://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/statistics/international-education/international-students-in-new-zealand).

Please note, the Ministry now proactively publishes OIA responses on our website. As such we may publish this response on our website after five working days. Your name and contact details will be removed.

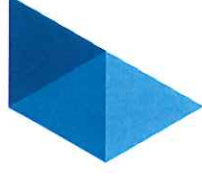
If you are unsatisfied with my response, you have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review it. You can do this by writing to [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz) or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K Casey', with a long, sweeping underline.

Katrina Casey  
**Deputy Secretary**  
**Sector Enablement and Support**





**APPENDIX A – Stand-downs, suspensions, exclusion and expulsions of international students studying in New Zealand secondary schools, for the years 2006 – 2016**

Nationality		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Stand-downs	China	8	10	7	10	8	17	21	12	22	26	30
	Japan	5	10	x	x	7	8	x	x	x	x	7
	Korea, Republic of	62	64	51	32	36	22	21	9	11	11	x
	<b>Total*</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>49</b>

\* Includes all other countries

Behaviour		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Stand-downs	Physical Assault on Other Students	35	45	35	18	37	32	19	10	18	11	18
	Continual Disobedience	22	26	16	19	14	10	15	11	12	15	8
	Other Harmful or Dangerous Behaviour	14	7	6	6	8	x	5	x	8	6	8
	Alcohol	x	7	x	6	5	x	8	0	x	6	5
	<b>Total*</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>49</b>

\* Includes all other behaviours

	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Suspensions	6	12	9	11	9	8	5	6	6	7	7
Exclusions	0	3	1	3	2	0	0	0	1	1	0
Expulsions	1	4	5	2	3	3	2	1	3	5	1

**Please note:**

- A value of 'x' indicates that there were fewer than 5 students in the cell and the result has been suppressed to protect student confidentiality
- Rows containing predominantly suppressed values have been removed
- Composite schools have been included