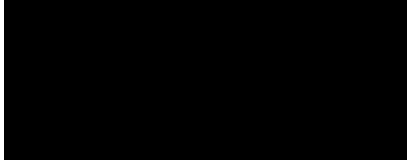




6 July 2021



Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your email of 1 June 2021 to the Ministry of Education requesting information about physical violence towards principals, teachers and other school staff across all Bay of Plenty schools.

On 8 June 2021 you clarified your request to:

the number of students who have been stood down, suspended, excluded, or expelled for physically assaulting school staff in the Bay of Plenty region from 2016 to 2020.

Your clarified request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

The number of stand-downs and suspensions for these incidents should not be used as a proxy measure for physical violence towards principals, teachers, and other school staff. Stand-downs and suspensions are measures of a school's *response* to behavior. What one school may choose to stand-down or suspend for another may not.

Stand-downs offer the chance for both parties to reflect on the action which led to the stand-down and to reduce tension in the situation. Schools work with students and their parents and whānau to address behaviour issues and to focus on the students' engagement, progress, and achievement, for the welfare and long-term outcomes for students.

Number of stand-downs, suspensions, exclusions, and expulsions due to physical assault on staff at schools in the Bay of Plenty region from 2016 to 2020

School response	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 (provisional)
Stand-downs	30	60	62	58	66
Suspensions	15	12	21	20	12
Exclusions	x	x	8	7	6
Expulsions	x	0	0	0	x

Attached as Annex One to this response is a breakdown by age group to provide you further information. Both sets of data have been compiled based off the categorised behaviour, 'Physical Assault on Staff'.

Caveats

1. Schools within the catchment of the Bay of Plenty Regional Council Toi Moana have been included in this dataset.
2. A stand-down is the removal of a student for a period of up to five days, where the decision is made by the Principal. A suspension is the formal removal of a student from a school until the school Board of Trustees (the Board) decides the outcome at a meeting. The Board can lift the suspension (with or without conditions), extend the suspension, or terminate the student's enrolment at the school (this is known as an exclusion for students under 16 and an expulsion for students aged 16 years and over).
3. It is important to note that stand-downs, suspensions, exclusions and expulsions are not measures of student behaviour but measures of a school's reaction to such behaviour. What one school may choose to stand-down or suspend for, another may not. The number of these events should not be used as a proxy measure for total student behaviour.
4. Data for 2020 is provisional data and it is therefore subject to change.
5. Values less than five have been suppressed to protect the privacy of students involved, or if left unmasked, the data may lead to deducing other masked values.
6. Exclusions and expulsions are subsets of total suspensions and should not be added to suspensions.
7. International fee-paying students, adult students (age 19+), and private students are not included in this data set.

You can find further information about stand-down, suspensions, exclusions and expulsions data on our Education Counts website at the following link:

[Stand-downs, suspensions, exclusions and expulsions from school | Education Counts](#)

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.

Thank you again for your email. If you have further questions please feel free to contact our media team in the first instance at media.team@education.govt.nz. 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 or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Nāku noa, nā



Helen Hurst
Tumu Te Hāpai ō Rāngai
Te Hāpai ō Rāngai

cc Ezra Schuster, Director of Education for Bay of Plenty



Annex One

Number of stand-downs, suspensions, exclusions, and expulsions due to Physical Assault on Staff at schools in the Bay of Plenty region broken down by age group from 2016 to 2020.

School response	2016				2017				2018				2019				2020 (provisional)			
	5-9	10-14	15+	Total	5-9	10-14	15+	Total	5-9	10-14	15+	Total	5-9	10-14	15+	Total	5-9	10-14	15+	Total
Stand-downs	18	x	x	30	33	20	7	60	37	20	5	62	37	x	x	58	42	17	7	66
Suspensions	7	x	x	15	x	7	x	12	x	10	x	21	5	15	0	20	x	x	x	12
Exclusions	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	8	x	6	x	7	x	x	x	6
Expulsions	x	x	x	x	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	x	x	x	x