




20 October 2020



Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your email of 29 September 2020 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

- *How many students were suspended in New Zealand each year, for the past five years. How many were excluded? How many were expelled?*
- *The above information, broken down by region*

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

The data you have requested is attached to this response as **Appendix A**. Please note that if the number of incidences in a category is fewer than five, we have withheld the figure under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of the individuals concerned. Where this is the case, these figures have been replaced with 'x'. There are some caveats on the interpretation of this data which are also included in the appendix.

A suspension is the formal removal of a student from a state or state-integrated school on a temporary basis until the school Board of Trustees (the board) decides the final outcome at a meeting. The board can then either:

- lift the suspension (with or without conditions),
- extend the suspension, or
- exclude the student (if under 16) or expel the student (if aged 16 years or over).

Exclusions and expulsions are subsets of suspension where an enrolment is terminated. If the student is under 16 years old, the board may decide to exclude the student from the school, with the requirement that the student enrolls elsewhere.

The Ministry publishes good practice guidelines for managing behaviour that may lead to suspensions, which you can find on our website here:

<https://education.govt.nz/school/managing-and-supporting-students/student-behaviour-help-and-guidance/stand-downs-suspensions-exclusions-and-expulsions-guidelines-part-2/>.

Please note, the Ministry now proactively publishes responses under the Act 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katrina Casey', written over the printed name and title.

Katrina Casey
Deputy Secretary
Sector Enablement and Support