




11 March 2021



Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your email of 20 January 2021 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

- *“... how many expulsions there were in Hawke’s Bay schools in 2018, 2019 and 2020.*
- *As well as each year, can this information please be broken down into each individual school in the region. For primary, intermediate and secondary schools as well as TKKM schools.*
- *And what are the reasons for the expulsions?*
- *I would also like to request how many suspensions there were at Hawke’s Bay schools in 2018, 2019 and 2020.*
- *Can this information please be broken down into each individual school in the region.*
- *And what were the reasons for the suspensions?*
- *How many students were stood down in 2018, 2019 and 2020 broken down into individual schools.’*

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

Definitions of measures used

A **stand-down** is the removal of a student for a period of up to five days in a school term, where the decision is made by the Principal. A student may only be stood down for a total of 10 school days in a year.

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 outcome at a suspension meeting. The board can 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 aged under 16, the board may decide to exclude the student from the school, with the requirement that the student enrolls elsewhere.

In response to your request, please refer to the summary tables of stand-downs, suspensions, and expulsions attached as **Appendix 1**. This data is provided with the following caveats:

- 2020 data was extracted on 16 February 2021. The data is live and therefore subject to change.
- Values less than five have been concealed by (x) under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of students involved.
- It is important to note that suspensions and expulsions are not measures of student behaviour but measures of a school's reaction to such behaviours. What one school may choose to suspend for, another may not. The number of these events should not be used as a proxy measure for total student behaviour.
- Expulsions are subsets of suspensions and should not be added to suspensions.
- Students can only be expelled from school at age 16 and over.

In relation to your request for the break-down of expulsions from individual schools, as the number of expulsions is so low, there is a risk that by releasing these figures the students in question may be identifiable. We have therefore withheld this data under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of the students. We have also withheld the total annual number of expulsions by reason to protect the privacy of students. We have, however, still provided the break-down by reason with masked data, so that the overall type is available.

Further information on the number of suspensions and expulsions in the Hawkes Bay region, can be found in the Education Count website at: <https://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/know-your-region/region/student-engagement/suspensions?district=®ion=6>

Please note, the Ministry now proactively publishes Official Information Act 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



Katrina Casey
Deputy Secretary
Sector Enablement and Support

cc: Daniel Murfitt, **Director of Education for Hawkes Bay**