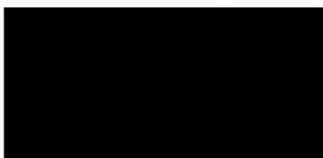




10 March 2021



Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your email of 26 January 2021 to the Ministry of Education requesting the following information:

- *The number of students stood down, number of students suspended, number of students excluded, and number of students expelled for the years 2016-2020. Can these please be broken down by the year the action happened, the student's age, and region of the school?*

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.

It is important to note that stand-downs, suspensions, exclusions, and expulsions (SSEE) are measures of a school's reaction to student behaviour. While one school may opt to suspend a student over a particular incident, another school may not. The number of these incidents should therefore not be used as a proxy measure for total student behaviour.

I am providing you, as **Appendix A**, 12 tables, which contain stand-downs, suspensions, exclusions, and expulsions data for 2016-2020 broken down, by year, student age and education area. Please note that numbers under five have been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of students. This is denoted in the data as the value 'x'.

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](mailto: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](mailto: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**

## Appendix A

The information contained in this appendix is the number of students as well as instances of students who had been stood down, suspended, excluded, or expelled. A student may be stood down or suspended on more than one occasion, but they are only counted once for each behaviour type.

Data for 2020 is live data and is therefore subject to change. Data was extracted on the 16 February 2021.

Numbers under five have been suppressed to protect the privacy of students.

### Stand-down

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.

**Table 1: Number of students who had been stood down between 2016 and 2020.**

Year	Number of Students
2016	11,670
2017	13,350
2018	14,271
2019	16,489
2020	14,006

**Table 2: Number of instances of students who had been stood down broken down by student age between 2016 and 2020.**

Student Age	Year				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
5	96	154	203	209	139
6	213	262	348	353	252
7	329	459	515	541	362
8	460	588	705	676	525
9	513	748	789	863	630
10	66	807	1,042	1,002	875
11	840	1,032	1,173	1,459	1,199
12	1,243	1,475	1,605	2,042	1,801
13	1,982	2,120	2,376	2,786	2,542
14	2,493	2,657	2,854	3,211	2,765
15	1,998	2,159	2,017	2,562	2,165
16	1,011	1,098	1,033	1,213	1,074
17	484	569	497	583	456
18	94	88	102	127	76
19+	14	9	11	6	7

\*Please note as students age during the calendar they can have an incident recorded in two different age categories.

**Table 3: Number of instances of students who had been stood down broken down by Education Area between 2016 and 2020**

Education Area	Year				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Tai Tokerau	757	745	756	833	729
Auckland	3,639	4,112	4,172	5,128	3,728
Waikato	1,343	1,511	1,634	1,953	1,729
Bay of Plenty/Waiariki	900	1,006	1,234	1,310	1,137
Hawke's Bay/Tairāwhiti	682	721	746	797	681
Taranaki/Whanganui/Manawatū	898	1,153	1,225	1,310	1,176
Wellington	1,019	1,233	1,369	1,446	1,364
Nelson/Marlborough/West Coast	360	432	460	588	627
Canterbury/Chatham Islands	1,281	1,518	1,613	1,972	1,790
Otago/Southland	825	961	1,098	1,195	1,064

*\*Please note as students can leave one Education Area and enter another, they can have an incident recorded in more than one Education Area category.*

## Suspension

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).

**Table 4: Number of students who had been suspended between 2016 and 2020**

Year	Number of Students
2016	2,464
2017	2,824
2018	2,749
2019	2,988
2020	2,111

**Table 5: Number of instances of students who had been suspended broken down by student age between 2016 and 2020**

Student Age	Year				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
5	6	9	12	20	7
6	24	32	44	34	20
7	30	53	63	51	31
8	61	83	79	67	39
9	59	104	100	81	45
10	77	97	119	101	74
11	124	159	163	181	146
12	251	318	283	318	234
13	433	470	449	500	376
14	595	628	648	725	497

Student Age	Year				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
15	508	565	526	618	402
16	243	238	234	266	196
17	77	120	105	80	70
18	25	19	13	16	11
19+	x	x	x	0	0

\*Numbers under 5 have been suppressed to protect the privacy of students.

\*Please note as students age during the calendar they can have an incident recorded in two different age categories.

**Table 6: Number of instances of students who had been suspended broken down by Education Area between 2016 and 2020**

Education Area	Year				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Tai Tokerau	172	173	166	149	112
Auckland	688	794	712	800	462
Waikato	264	323	318	406	307
Bay of Plenty/Wairariki	222	288	286	281	186
Hawkes Bay/Tairāwhiti	181	188	196	246	141
Taranaki/Whanganui/Manawatū	236	240	279	281	195
Wellington	223	229	201	208	166
Nelson/Marlborough/West Coast	79	89	91	115	108
Canterbury	211	267	305	294	283
Otago/Southland	195	240	202	214	153

\*Please note as students can leave one Education Area and enter another, they can have an incident recorded in more than one Education Area category.

## Exclusion

Exclusion is a subset of suspension and should not be added to suspension.

**Table 7: Number of students who had been excluded between 2016 and 2020**

Year	Number of Students
2016	897
2017	1,021
2018	1,006
2019	1,050
2020	700

**Table 8: Number of instances of students who had been excluded broken down by student age between 2016 and 2020**

Student Age	Year				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
5	x	x	7	x	x
6	12	19	19	20	9



Student Age	Year				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
7	14	23	26	29	13
8	24	37	35	29	21
9	31	50	47	41	9
10	37	49	53	53	35
11	47	58	60	67	49
12	119	123	121	121	86
13	178	194	167	177	130
14	228	230	266	273	185
15	205	243	209	241	160

\*Numbers under 5 have been suppressed to protect the privacy of students.

\*Please note as students age during the calendar they can have an incident recorded in two different age categories.

**Table 9: Number of instances of students who had been excluded broken down by Education Area between 2016 and 2020**

Education Area	Year				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Tai Tokerau	61	62	59	62	41
Auckland	275	300	275	289	157
Waikato	86	118	110	124	89
Bay of Plenty/Wairariki	62	88	77	81	65
Hawkes Bay/Tairāwhiti	73	62	64	77	55
Taranaki/Whanganui/Manawatū	95	112	117	111	65
Wellington	67	53	66	68	40
Nelson/Marlborough/West Coast	24	32	32	42	39
Canterbury	96	103	113	118	97
Otago/Southland	58	92	94	78	53

\*Please note as students can leave one Education Area and enter another, they can have an incident recorded in more than one Education Area category.

## Expulsion

Expulsion is a subset of suspension and should not be added to suspension.

**Table 10: Number of students who had been expelled between 2016 and 2020**

Year	Number of Students
2016	123
2017	145
2018	125
2019	139
2020	111

**Table 11: Number of instances of students who had been expelled broken down by student age between 2016 and 2020**

Student Age	Year				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
15	8	6	6	x	x
16	78	78	79	101	80
17	24	52	34	30	26
18	12	7	5	6	x
19+	x	x	x	0	0

*\*Numbers under 5 have been suppressed to protect the privacy of students.*

*\*Please note as students age during the calendar they can have an incident recorded in two different age categories.*

**Table 12: Number of instances of students who had been expelled broken down by Education Area between 2016 and 2020**

Education Area	Year				
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Tai Tokerau	11	18	9	x	x
Auckland	63	61	52	79	61
Waikato	10	10	11	10	9
Bay of Plenty/Waiariki	7	5	10	7	9
Hawkes Bay/Tairāwhiti	9	10	x	x	6
Taranaki/Whanganui/Manawatū	7	10	6	14	7
Wellington	5	7	9	5	5
Nelson/Marlborough/West Coast		x	x	6	x
Canterbury	5	12	16	6	7
Otago/Southland	5	10	x	x	x

*\*Numbers under 5 have been suppressed to protect the privacy of students.*

*\*Please note as students can leave one Education Area and enter another, they can have an incident recorded in more than one Education Area category.*