



Thank you for your email to the Ministry of Education on 6 November 2018 requesting the following information:

- *How many violent attacks on school staff (by students or members of the community) have been reported to the MoE since January 2017?*
- *How many violent attacks on school staff were reported to the MoE in the two years prior to January 2017?*
- *How many students were suspended as a result of violent incidents against staff or fellow students?*
- *How many times did students bring weapons to school?*
- *What were the weapons that were brought to school?*
- *What regions of the country recorded the most violent incidents?*
- *How many recorded incidents of students bringing methamphetamine to school since January 2017?*
- *How many schools have used security guards since January 2017?*
- *How much money has been spent on security at schools since January 2017?*
- *Do any schools have security staff permanently patrolling school grounds?*

We refined your request on 14 November 2018 and our release includes national stand-downs and suspensions data, as we do not hold the other information you have requested. Your request has also been narrowed to stand-down and suspension data for the following five categories, for the period from January 2015 to 16 November 2018:

- physical assault on staff
- verbal assault on staff,
- smoking and alcohol,
- drugs and substance abuse,
- weapons,

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

Please find attached as **Appendix One** the data you have requested. This includes data on all five categories, broken down for each of the ten education regions from 2015 onwards. Separate tables are included for stand-downs, suspensions, exclusions and expulsions. Appendix One also includes caveats that are helpful for your interpretation of the data.

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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 certain behaviour. 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.

A state or state-integrated school may consider the formal removal of a student through a stand-down from school for a period of up to five school days. A stand-down, for any student, cannot total more than five school days in a term, or ten days in a school year. Students return automatically to school following a stand-down.

A suspension is the formal removal of a student from a school until the school 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).

Schools decide how they categorise misbehaviour from 15 behaviour categories when they choose to stand-down, suspend, exclude or expel a student. These categories are challenging behaviours including drugs, violence, vandalism and other harmful and dangerous behaviours that could disrupt the learning of the individuals concerned or the school environment.

In your original request, you asked for the kinds of weapons students have brought to school and how many they have brought. You also asked how many incidents of students bringing methamphetamine to school have been recorded. Our data does not capture information to this level of specificity, instead focusing on the reason for a stand-down or suspension rather than the exact circumstances of each case.

Finally, the data being released contains information on the number of incidents instead of numbers of students as a student may be stood-down or suspended on more than one occasion.

Thank you again for your request. You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this decision. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or Office of the Ombudsman, PO Box 10152, Wellington 6143.

Yours sincerely



Katrina Casey
Deputy Secretary
Sector Enablement and Support

Appendix One

Question:

Can I please have the number of cases of stand-downs, suspensions, exclusions and expulsions for:

- Physical assault on staff
- Verbal assault on staff
- Smoking or alcohol
- Drugs (including substance abuse)
- Weapons

That occurred in 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018 (to date) and broken down by Education region?

Response:

Table 1: The number of stand-down cases broken down by Education Region, year and behaviour

Education Region	Year	Physical Assault On Staff	Verbal Assault On Staff	Alcohol/Smoking	Drugs	Weapons
Auckland	2015	120	415	225	323	60
	2016	186	367	227	226	72
	2017	195	348	357	249	83
	2018 up to date	193	349	322	278	71
Bay of Plenty/Waiariki	2015	35	145	28	93	8
	2016	41	139	55	98	17
	2017	65	159	60	123	12
	2018 up to date	65	178	62	164	19
Canterbury	2015	129	197	72	73	23
	2016	165	219	73	68	26
	2017	191	196	75	88	33
	2018 up to date	232	229	109	67	22
Hawkes Bay/Tairawhiti	2015	19	97	27	102	14
	2016	35	102	22	84	12
	2017	29	85	75	55	11
	2018 up to date	36	86	30	53	7

Education Region	Year	Physical Assault On Staff	Verbal Assault On Staff	Alcohol/Smoking	Drugs	Weapons
Nelson/Marlborough/West Coast	2015	32	71	27	22	8
	2016	26	64	18	29	9
	2017	39	65	47	51	11
	2018 up to date	50	72	19	28	7
Otago/Southland	2015	55	116	81	44	4
	2016	93	144	66	44	15
	2017	112	142	77	30	7
	2018 up to date	137	172	76	18	10
Tai Tokerau	2015	24	99	35	73	8
	2016	29	70	34	123	10
	2017	19	75	39	118	12
	2018 up to date	28	70	76	112	14
Taranaki/Whanganui/Manawatu	2015	46	127	21	79	12
	2016	73	172	29	47	26
	2017	98	149	66	73	18
	2018 up to date	82	156	75	81	27
Waikato	2015	96	200	65	171	28
	2016	73	203	65	184	25
	2017	85	201	99	132	22
	2018 up to date	105	174	105	111	19
Wellington	2015	60	178	62	114	16
	2016	72	147	75	99	18
	2017	81	145	113	93	18
	2018 up to date	91	163	128	73	18
National	2015	616	1645	643	1094	181
	2016	793	1627	664	1002	230
	2017	914	1565	1008	1012	227
	2018 up to date	1019	1649	1002	985	214

Table 2: The number of suspension cases broken down by Education region, year, and behaviour

Education Region	Year	Physical Assault On Staff	Verbal Assault On Staff	Alcohol/Smoking	Drugs	Weapons
Auckland	2015	35	36	29	148	18
	2016	22	23	35	126	23
	2017	50	30	18	146	18
	2018 up to date	40	22	28	133	19
Bay of Plenty/Waiariki	2015	12	20	5	71	5
	2016	19	18	5	62	4
	2017	14	16	10	65	16
	2018 up to date	21	19	4	73	3
Canterbury	2015	25	12	4	31	2
	2016	34	15	2	25	12
	2017	29	12	11	42	8
	2018 up to date	33	10	19	46	11
Hawkes Bay/Tairāwhiti	2015	9	8	2	36	6
	2016	11	6	1	47	2
	2017	17	12	8	51	2
	2018 up to date	9	8	8	46	7
Nelson/Marlborough/West Coast	2015	8	4	3	38	4
	2016	7	5	1	14	2
	2017	13	4	3	17	2
	2018 up to date	9	6	1	2	1
Otago/Southland	2015	9	14	9	37	1
	2016	10	20	3	49	5
	2017	28	18	15	41	6
	2018 up to date	22	17	5	34	4
Tai Tokerau	2015	10	10	3	38	6
	2016	4	7	0	33	5
	2017	8	5	6	25	4
	2018 up to date	8	10	2	19	3
Taranaki/Whanganui/Manawatu	2015	13	9	1	39	4
	2016	15	16	3	55	15
	2017	11	11	3	49	5

Education Region	Year	Physical Assault On Staff	Verbal Assault On Staff	Alcohol/Smoking	Drugs	Weapons
	2018 up to date	21	11	5	43	5
Waikato	2015	18	7	10	72	5
	2016	11	24	7	49	9
	2017	19	10	16	83	4
	2018 up to date	20	8	7	60	5
Wellington	2015	11	5	4	34	8
	2016	14	11	3	52	12
	2017	12	10	8	51	4
	2018 up to date	18	4	1	24	4
National	2015	150	125	70	544	59
	2016	147	145	60	512	89
	2017	201	128	98	570	69
	2018 up to date	201	115	80	480	62

Table 3: The number of exclusion cases broken down by Education region, year, and behaviour

Education Region	Year	Physical Assault On Staff	Verbal Assault On Staff	Alcohol/Smoking	Drugs	Weapons
Auckland	2015	18	19	6	43	5
	2016	9	13	4	32	12
	2017	25	16	3	36	9
	2018 up to date	13	8	4	27	5
Bay of Plenty/Waiariki	2015	2	6	1	8	0
	2016	5	8	1	4	1
	2017	3	4	0	10	11
	2018 up to date	7	2	0	6	0
Canterbury	2015	12	4	1	8	1
	2016	14	6	1	8	8
	2017	17	0	0	9	1
	2018 up to date	10	3	0	5	2
Hawkes Bay/Tairarwhiti	2015	5	5	0	9	3
	2016	7	5	1	9	1

Education Region	Year	Physical Assault On Staff	Verbal Assault On Staff	Alcohol/Smoking	Drugs	Weapons
	2017	1	4	0	8	0
	2018 up to date	5	2	1	8	2
Nelson/Marlborough/West Coast	2015	5	3	0	9	1
	2016	4	2	0	3	0
	2017	4	2	1	1	1
	2018 up to date	4	1	0	0	0
Otago/Southland	2015	3	5	0	12	1
	2016	2	10	2	11	1
	2017	11	2	0	19	2
	2018 up to date	12	6	2	13	0
Tai Tokerau	2015	3	3	0	13	2
	2016	2	2	0	9	1
	2017	3	3	1	7	1
	2018 up to date	2	2	0	3	1
Taranaki/Whanganui/Manawatu	2015	4	3	0	8	1
	2016	9	6	1	16	4
	2017	7	6	1	12	2
	2018 up to date	9	3	0	8	4
Waikato	2015	8	3	1	12	1
	2016	5	10	1	2	2
	2017	9	4	1	13	1
	2018 up to date	8	3	0	5	2
Wellington	2015	2	0	0	1	1
	2016	6	1	1	8	6
	2017	3	0	1	4	1
	2018 up to date	6	1	1	5	0
National	2015	62	51	9	123	16
	2016	63	63	12	102	36
	2017	83	41	8	119	29
	2018 up to date	76	31	8	80	16

Exclusions is a subset of suspensions and should not be added to suspensions.

Table 4: The number of expulsion cases broken down by Education region, year, and behaviour

Education Region	Year	Physical Assault On Staff	Verbal Assault On Staff	Alcohol/Smoking	Drugs	Weapons
Auckland	2015	1	1	2	21	1
	2016	2	2	3	5	0
	2017	0	2	1	11	0
	2018 up to date	0	2	2	11	0
Bay of Plenty/Waiariki	2015	2	1	0	4	0
	2016	1	0	0	2	1
	2017	0	1	0	0	0
	2018 up to date	0	0	0	3	0
Canterbury	2015	0	0	0	1	0
	2016	1	0	0	0	0
	2017	0	0	3	3	0
	2018 up to date	2	0	0	4	1
Hawkes Bay/Tairāwhiti	2015	0	0	0	13	0
	2016	0	1	0	3	0
	2017	0	0	0	4	0
	2018 up to date	0	0	0	2	0
Nelson/Marlborough/West Coast	2015	0	0	0	1	0
	2018 up to date	0	0	0	0	1
Otago/Southland	2015	0	0	1	2	0
	2016	1	0	0	2	0
	2017	0	2	0	2	0
	2018 up to date	1	0	0	0	0
Tai Tokerau	2015	0	0	0	3	1
	2016	0	0	0	2	0
	2017	1	0	1	2	0
	2018 up to date	1	1	0	1	0
Taranaki/Whanganui/Manawatu	2015	1	0	0	0	1
	2016	0	0	0	1	0
	2017	0	1	1	2	0
	2018 up to date	0	0	0	3	0

Education Region	Year	Physical Assault On Staff	Verbal Assault On Staff	Alcohol/Smoking	Drugs	Weapons
Waikato	2015	0	0	1	4	0
	2016	0	2	1	0	1
	2017	0	0	0	3	0
	2018 up to date	0	1	0	3	0
Wellington	2015	1	0	1	2	0
	2016	1	0	0	2	0
	2017	0	0	0	1	0
	2018 up to date	0	0	0	0	1
National	2015	5	2	5	51	3
	2016	6	5	4	17	2
	2017	1	6	6	28	0
	2018 up to date	4	4	2	27	3

Expulsions is a subset of suspensions and should not be added to suspensions.

Caveats:

- Information presented in the tables above is the number of stand-down or suspension **cases**
- **All 2018 data is live and subject to change. It cannot be compared to previous years' data. Data for 2018 was extracted on 16 November 2018 and only includes incidences recorded up to this date.**
- Exclusions and expulsions are subsets of suspensions and should not be added to suspensions.
- It is important to note that stand-down, suspensions, exclusions, 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.