



19 DEC 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for emailing the Ministry of Education's Media Team on 6 November 2018, to request information about stand-downs, suspensions, exclusions and expulsions (SSEEs). On 8 November, you agreed to the following clarification to your request:

- *The number of stand-downs in Auckland schools in 2016 and 2017, broken down by Auckland Local Board Area and year level in the following behavioural categories:*
 - *Smoking or Alcohol; and*
 - *Drugs (including substance abuse).*
- *2016 and 2017 suspension data for schools in Auckland which stood down, suspended, excluded or expelled more than five students, provided in three yearly age brackets (5 to 8 year olds, 9 – 12 year olds, 13 to 16 year olds and students aged over 16) or above for either of the behavioural reasons above in either of these two years.*

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

A state or state-integrated school may consider the formal removal of a student through a **stand-down** for a period of up to five school days. A stand-down can total no more than five school days in a term, or ten days in a school year.

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 suspension meeting. Following a suspension, the board can either lift the suspension (with or without conditions), extend the suspension (with conditions), or terminate the student's enrolment at the school.

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. This decision should be arrived at in only the most serious cases. If the student is aged 16 or over, the board may decide to expel the student from the school, and the student may or may not enrol at another school. Again, this decision should be arrived at only in the most serious cases. Excluded or expelled students may face difficulties in enrolling in other schools

Stand-downs and suspensions are measures of schools' reactions to behaviours, as much as they are a measure of the behaviours themselves. What one school may suspend for, another may not, and our data does not capture the severity of an individual action.

A comprehensive view of age-standardised data per 1,000 students is available by going to our website Education Counts at www.educationcounts.govt.nz/statistics/indicators, and choosing “stand-downs, suspensions, exclusions and expulsions” from the drop down list.

Support for schools

Schools are required to develop comprehensive local approaches to promoting pro-social behaviour and wellbeing within their setting. We support these efforts, and the development of whole school capability, with programmes such as Positive Behaviour for Learning (PB4L).

Our Teaching for Positive Behaviour resource supports teachers to understand and use effective practices that enhance students' behaviour, engagement, participation, and learning. You can read about both of these resources in more detail at: pb4l.tki.org.nz/PB4L-School-Wide.

Our Learning Support professionals work specifically to support children and young people with higher levels of challenging behaviour. *'Understanding Behaviour – Responding Safely'*, a training workshop for behaviour management that focuses on preventative and de-escalation techniques, has been developed for New Zealand schools. It is delivered by Learning Support professionals who can provide ongoing support to schools.

The school-based Resource Teacher: Learning and Behaviour (RTLb) service supports clusters of schools to develop whole school behaviour management strategies to help manage the additional learning needs of students and help enhance students' learning participation and wellbeing.

We also provide bullying prevention guidance for school Boards of Trustees, which you can find by searching the resources section at www.bullyingfree.nz.

Your request

A table showing the number of stand downs for either smoking/alcohol or drugs (including substance abuse) by Auckland Local Board area during 2016 and 2017 is attached to this letter as **Appendix A**. Where the cells in the table refer to fewer than five students, I have withheld the number of students under section 9(2)(a) of the Act, to protect the privacy of natural persons. These cells are marked with an 'x'.

A table showing stand-downs, suspensions, exclusions and expulsions data for Auckland schools by age bracket for reasons relating to smoking or alcohol and drugs (including substance abuse) during 2016 and 2017 is provided in a table attached to this letter as **Appendix B**.

Notes

The data shows the number of incidents, not the number of students, and it is possible that a single student could be formally disciplined more than once in a single year. Thank you again for your request. If you have further questions please feel free to contact our media team in the first instance at media@education.govt.nz.

You have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review my response. You can do this by writing to info@ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Yours sincerely

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

cc Isabel Evans **Auckland Director of Education**

Appendix A

Stand-downs for smoking/alcohol and drugs (including substance abuse)
by Auckland Local Board area during 2016 and 2017

		Drugs (including substance abuse)	Smoking/Alcohol
Albert-Eden	2016	x	x
	2017	x	x
Devonport-Takapuna	2016	12	8
	2017	5	9
Franklin	2016	x	6
	2017	x	8
Henderson-Massey	2016	13	9
	2017	26	18
Hibiscus and Bays	2016	x	8
	2017	10	x
Howick	2016	x	19
	2017	x	31
Kaipātiki	2016	x	x
	2017	6	10
Māngere-Ōtāhuhu	2016	8	27
	2017	26	28
Manurewa	2016	34	32
	2017	33	29
Maungakiekie-Tāmaki	2016	13	8
	2017	16	11
Ōrākei	2016	x	13
	2017	x	22
Ōtara-Papatoetoe	2016	24	38
	2017	41	60
Papakura	2016	45	7
	2017	25	34
Puketāpapa	2016	11	7
	2017	x	18
Rodney	2016	x	6
	2017	x	12

		Drugs (including substance abuse)	Smoking/Alcohol
Upper Harbour	2016	0	18
	2017	10	14
Waiheke	2016	0	x
	2017	0	0
Waitākere Ranges	2016	0	0
	2017	x	0
Waitematā	2016	13	7
	2017	9	25
Whau	2016	20	9
	2017	17	15

Appendix B

Stand-downs, suspensions, exclusions and expulsions data for Auckland schools by age bracket for reasons relating to drugs or smoking/alcohol during 2016 and 2017

Stand-downs

		Drugs (including substance abuse)	Smoking/ Alcohol
5 to 8 year olds	2016	0	0
	2017	0	1
9 to 12 year olds	2016	25	37
	2017	24	52
13 to 16 year olds	2016	189	144
	2017	214	259
over 16 years old	2016	6	44
	2017	8	36

Suspensions

		Drugs (including substance abuse)	Smoking/ Alcohol
5 to 8 year olds	2016	16	2
	2017	25	4
9 to 12 year olds	2016	99	29
	2017	108	13
13 to 16 year olds	2016	4	5
	2017	10	1

Exclusions

		Drugs (including substance abuse)	Alcohol/Smoking
9 to 12 year olds	2016	6	1
	2017	2	1
13 to 16 year olds	2016	23	4
	2017	32	2

Expulsions

		Drugs (including substance abuse)	Alcohol/Smoking
13 to 16 year olds	2016	5	2
	2017	6	0
over 16 years old	2016	0	1
	2017	5	1