

Massachusetts



Department of
Education

Student Exclusions in Massachusetts Public Schools: 2002-03

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Massachusetts Department of Education
350 Main Street, Malden, MA 02148
781-338-3000 TTY 800-439-0183 (or 711)
www.doe.mass.edu

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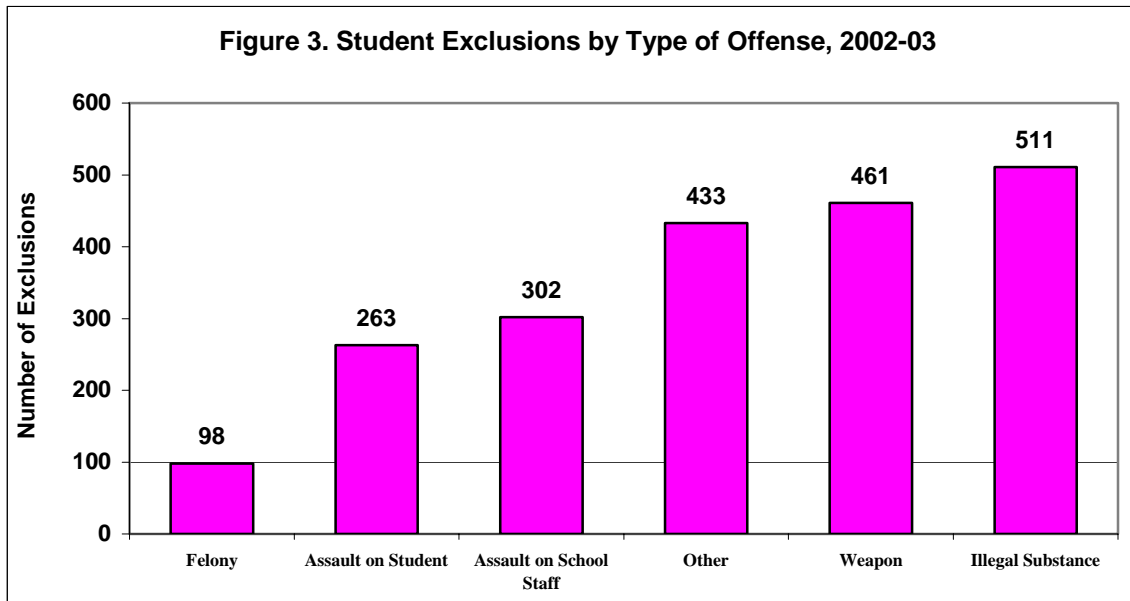
Table 4a. Exclusions by Type of Offense

	2000-01		2001-02*		2002-03*	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Weapon on school premises	324	20	388	20	461	22
Illegal substance on school premises	403	25	559	28	511	25
Assault on school staff	218	13	229	12	302	15
Assault on student	152	9	155	8	263	13
Felony outside of school	102	6	155	8	98	5
Other	322	20	493	25	433	21
Weapon combination	33	2	na		na	
Non-weapon combination	67	4	na		na	
Total Number of Offenses	1,621		1,979		2,068	
Type of Weapon**						
Knife	254	71	294	77	331	71
Gun	23	6	18	5	28	6
Explosive/incendiary device	9	3	1	0	3	1
Other	66	18	70	18	105	22
More than one type of weapon	6	2	na		na	

Reported percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

*Totals reported for SY 2002 (n= 1,979) and SY 2003 (n= 2,068) were greater than the total number of exclusions because some exclusions involved more than one offense.

**Data are for all exclusions involving weapons, including weapons violations in combination with other offenses.



According to the Gun-Free Schools Act (GFSA) of 1994, each state must have in effect a State law requiring the school district to immediately expel a student for a period of not less than one year, if he/she is found to have brought or to have possessed a gun/firearm at school. Each State's law must also stipulate that the school district superintendent has

Federal law requires special education students with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) who are excluded from school to be offered alternative education. Ninety-five percent of the special education students excluded in 2002-03 received alternative education. Of those general education students that were referred for special education evaluation but had not yet been evaluated, 80 percent received alternative education as shown in Table 7b.

Table 7b. Alternative Education by Program Status

	2000-01		2001-02		2002-03	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
All Students						
Alternative education provided	1,156	71	1,262*	71	1,457	75
Alternative education not provided	465	29	512	29	492	25
Not reported	0		1	0	0	
General Education Students						
Alternative education provided	787	64	811	63	960	68
Alternative education not provided	439	37	487	37	460	32
Not reported	0		0		0	
Special Education Students						
Alternative education provided	370	94	450	95	481	95
Alternative education not provided	24	6	24	5	28	6
Not reported	0		0		0	
Special Education Referrals						
Alternative education provided	0		0		16	80
Alternative education not provided	0		0		4	20
Not reported	0		0		0	

Reported percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

***Program status data for one student was not reported.**

In regards to the 28 special education students who did not receive alternative education, 11 were reported as having refused or not responding to the offer of alternative education, and eight students had moved or transferred. In the case of six students, the school chose not to provide alternative education, and three students were reported as having been incarcerated.

For special education students that are excluded, placement of those students to an alternative setting is determined by either: (1) an impartial hearing officer, or (2) school personnel. In school year 2002-03, 16 percent (83 students) were removed to an alternative education setting by an impartial hearing officer and 84 percent (424 students) were removed to an alternative education setting by school personnel. For two special education students it was not reported whether the removal was by either an impartial hearing officer or school personnel.

Table 9. Districts* with Ten or More Student Exclusions

2001-02				2002-03			
District	#	Per 1000 students	% Alt. Ed.	District	#	Per 1000 students	% Alt. Ed.
Springfield	458	18.3	91	Springfield	583	21.9	92
Boston	172	2.8	88	Boston	221	3.6	98
Worcester	128	4.9	97	Worcester	102	4.0	100
Lawrence	59	4.6	88	Lawrence	75	6.0	92
Holyoke	39	5.4	33	Holyoke	56	7.7	82
Quincy	38	4.4	63	Lowell	50	3.2	80
Lowell	31	2.0	100	Plymouth	34	3.8	68
Barnstable	31	5.1	55	Chicopee	32	4.2	13
Plymouth	27	3.0	41	Cambridge	28	4.1	100
Chelsea	25	4.3	68	Quincy	25	2.8	80
Chicopee	25	3.3	36	Assabet Valley	24	27.0	33
Dennis-Yarmouth	25	5.6	56	North Attleborough	24	5.1	67
Malden	23	4.2	4	Stoughton	22	5.3	77
Cambridge	22	3.1	100	Greater Lawrence RVT	19	13.5	32
Revere	22	3.8	82	Dennis-Yarmouth	19	4.4	5
Middleborough	21	5.7	76	Chelsea	18	3.1	56
Assabet Valley	19	21.7	37	Fitchburg	18	3.0	72
S.E. Reg. Voc Tech	18	15.4	50	Greenfield	18	8.0	50
Brookline	17	2.9	88	Nauset	17	9.2	100
Fitchburg	17	2.7	47	Revere	13	2.2	69
Nauset	16	8.9	100	Winchendon	13	6.9	46
Somerville	16	2.8	19	Central Berkshire	12	5.2	25
Stoughton	16	3.9	44	Randolph	12	3.0	67
Central Berkshire	14	6.1	14	Haverhill	12	1.4	67
Oxford	13	5.9	92	Fall River	11	0.9	73
Ayer	10	7.1	10	New Bedford	11	0.8	100
Braintree	10	2.0	70	Walpole	11	3.0	36
Whittier Voc	10	7.5	0	Athol-Royalston	10	4.5	50
				Barnstable	10	1.6	60
				Brockton	10	0.6	40
				Leominster	10	1.6	30
				New Leadership HMCS	10	31.3	40
				Salem	10	2.0	40
				Wareham	10	2.9	80

*Charter schools and regional vocational technical schools are also considered to be districts.

Table 10. Districts* with Four or More Student Exclusions per 1000 Students

2001-02				2002-03			
District	#	Per 1000 students	% Alt. Ed.	District	#	Per 1000 students	% Alt. Ed.
S. Boston Harbor Acad Ch	6	25.2	0	Champion HMCS	5	50.5	0
Assabet Valley	19	21.7	37	New Leadership HMCS	10	31.3	40
Springfield	458	18.3	91	Assabet Valley	24	27.0	33
S.E. Reg. Voc Tech	18	15.4	50	Springfield	583	21.9	92
North Brookfield	9	11.0	67	Gr. Lawrence RVT	19	13.5	32
Murdoch Middle Charter	2	8.8	0	Ralph C. Mahar	7	9.6	43
Nauset	16	8.9	100	Nauset	17	9.2	100
Boston Evening Acad HMCS	1	7.6		Greenfield	18	8.0	50
Whittier Voc	10	7.5	0	City On A Hill Charter	2	7.8	50
Ayer	10	7.1	0	Holyoke	56	7.7	82
Ralph C. Mahar	5	6.9	60	Northern Berkshire Voc	3	7.0	0
Southern Worcester Cty VT	7	6.9	100	Winchendon	13	6.9	46
Northampton-Smith	3	6.7	33	Ware	9	6.8	11
Ware	9	6.7	44	Boston Evening Acad HMCS	1	6.6	0
Old Rochester	7	6.2	14	Mount Greylock	5	6.2	20
Central Berkshire	14	6.1	14	Lawrence	75	6.0	92
Gr. Lawrence RVT	8	6.1	38	Southern Berkshire	6	5.8	100
Oxford	13	5.9	92	Roxbury Prep Charter	1	5.7	100
Sabis International	7	5.8	100	Avon	4	5.5	25
Middleborough	21	5.7	76	Stoughton	22	5.3	77
Dennis-Yarmouth	25	5.6	56	Central Berkshire	12	5.2	25
Holyoke	39	5.4	33	Frederick Douglass CS	1	5.2	0
Mount Greylock	4	5.1	100	Northboro-Southboro	6	5.2	83
Barnstable	31	5.1	55	North Attleborough	24	5.1	67
Essex Agr Tech	2	5.1	50	Bristol County Agr	2	4.8	0
Martha's Vineyard Charter	4	5.0	75	Abby Kelley Foster Reg CS	4	4.7	75
Worcester	128	4.9	97	Athol-Royalston	10	4.5	50
Southern Berkshire	5	4.9	100	Dennis-Yarmouth	19	4.4	5
Lawrence	59	4.6	88	North Central Charter Ess	1	4.3	0
City On A Hill Charter	1	4.5	0	Chicopee	32	4.2	13
Georgetown	7	4.4	0	Cambridge	28	4.1	100
Quincy	38	4.4	63	Monson	6	4.0	50
Chelsea	25	4.3	68	New Bedford Global Learning	1	4.0	100
Malden	23	4.2	4	Worcester	102	4.0	100

*Charter schools and regional vocational technical schools are also considered to be districts.

