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|  | Bullying Data Collection-Annual Report |
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| This report is submitted pursuant to Chapter 86 of the Acts of 2014 which amended G.L. c.71, §37O, the anti-bullying statute, and was signed into law on April 24, 2014. It includes information from school years 2014-2015 through 2017-2018.**June 2019** |
| Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education75 Pleasant Street, Malden, MA 02148-4906Phone 781-338-3000 TTY: N.E.T. Relay 800-439-2370[www.doe.mass.edu](http://www.doe.mass.edu) |
| ESE logoThis document was prepared by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary EducationJeffrey C. RileyCommissioner**Board of Elementary and Secondary Education Members**Ms. Katherine Craven, Chair, BrooklineMr. Edward Doherty, Hyde ParkMs. Amanda Fernández, BelmontMr. Matthew Hills, NewtonMs. Maya Mathews, Student Advisory Council, NewtonMs. Margaret McKenna, BostonMr. Michael Moriarty, HolyokeMr. James Morton, Vice Chair, SpringfieldMr. James Peyser, Secretary of Education, MiltonMs. Mary Ann Stewart, LexingtonDr. Martin West, NewtonJeffrey C. Riley, CommissionerSecretary to the BoardThe Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, an affirmative action employer, is committed to ensuring that all of its programs and facilities are accessible to all members of the public. We do not discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, national origin, race, religion, sex, gender identity, or sexual orientation.  Inquiries regarding the Department’s compliance with Title IX and other civil rights laws may be directed to the Human Resources Director, 75 Pleasant St., Malden, MA 02148-4906. Phone: 781-338-6105.© 2019 Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary EducationPermission is hereby granted to copy any or all parts of this document for non-commercial educational purposes. Please credit the “Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.”This document printed on recycled paperMassachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education75 Pleasant Street, Malden, MA 02148-4906Phone 781-338-3000 TTY: N.E.T. Relay 800-439-2370[www.doe.mass.edu](http://www.doe.mass.edu)State Seal of Massachusetts |

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| Jeffrey C. Riley*Commissioner* |  |
| --- | --- |

June 14, 2019

Dear Members of the General Court and Attorney General Healey:

I am pleased to submit this Report to the Legislature: *Bullying Data - Annual Report* for school year 2014-2015 (SY15), SY16, SY17, and SY18. The bullying data provided in this report was compiled from information submitted by school districts to the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (Department) via the [School Safety Discipline Report](http://www.doe.mass.edu/infoservices/data/ssdr.html) (SSDR). Data for each school district can be found on the Department’s [Student Discipline Data Report](http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/statereport/ssdr.aspx) available on the [School and District Profiles](http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/) web pages.

Prepared in consultation with the Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office, this report provides information about data collected via the SSDR since the inception of the requirement, including SY15, SY16, SY17, and SY18.

If you have any questions about this report, please feel free to contact Anne Gilligan, Safe and Healthy Schools Coordinator, in the Office of Student and Family Support via agilligan@doe.mass.edu or 781-338-6309.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey C. Riley

Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education

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# Introduction

The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (Department) respectfully submits this Report to the Legislature: *Bullying Data - Annual Report* pursuant to Chapter 86 of the Acts of 2014. This report was prepared in consultation with the Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office.

*“Each school district, charter school, approved private day or residential school and collaborative school shall annually report bullying incident data to the department. The data shall include, but not be limited to: (i) the number of reported allegations of bullying or retaliation; (ii) the number and nature of substantiated incidents of bullying or retaliation; (iii) the number of students disciplined for engaging in bullying or retaliation; and (iv) any other information required by the department. Said incident data shall be reported in the form and manner established by the department, in consultation with the attorney general; provided, that the department shall minimize the costs and resources needed to comply with said reporting requirements; and provided further, that the department may use existing data collection and reporting mechanisms to collect the information from school districts. The department shall analyze the bullying incident data and shall publish an annual report containing aggregate statewide information on the frequency and nature of bullying in schools. The department shall file the annual report with the attorney general and with the clerks of the senate and the house of representatives who shall forward the same to the chairs of the joint committee on education, the joint committee on the judiciary and the house and senate committees on ways and means.”*

# Number of Substantiated Incidents of Bullying

The bullying data compiled from the Department’s School Safety Discipline Report (SSDR) data collection is provided in the tables below. Bullying data for each school district can be found on the Department’s website on the [Student Discipline Data Report](http://profiles.doe.mass.edu/statereport/ssdr.aspx) under the topic “Bullying” in the drop down menu.

Data has been available on the Department’s website since school year 2012-2013 (SY13). This report encompasses data collected via the SSDR since the inception of the requirement for SY15, SY16, SY17, and SY18. The SSDR currently collects data on the number of substantiated incidents of bullying, and the number of students disciplined for engaging in bullying. To further ensure that districts are reporting incidents of bullying consistently and accurately, the Department plans to provide training and technical assistance on all required data collection elements enumerated in the legislation. More consistent and uniform reporting will also allow for data analysis to more accurately determine reductions or other changes in bullying related behaviors.

# Table 1: Massachusetts Public School Bullying Totals, School Year 2014-2015 (SY15)-SY18

| **School Year** | **Number of Substantiated Bullying Incidents Reported** | **Unduplicated Count of Students with a Removal Discipline for Bullying\*** | **Number of Districts Reporting Incidents** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2014-2015 (SY15) | 2,245 | 1,020 | 197 |
| 2015-2016 (SY16) | 2,014 | 948 | 217 |
| 2016-2017 (SY17) | 1,971 | 936 | 205 |
| 2017-2018 (SY18) | 1,935 | 915 | 267 |

\*Removals include In-School and Out-of-School Suspensions, Emergency Removals, and Removals to an Alternative Setting.

# Table 2: Distribution of MA Public School Students with Bullying Disciplines by Grade, School Year 2014-2015 (SY15)-SY18

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | **SY15** | **SY16** | **SY17** | **SY18** |
| **GRADE** | **#** | ***%*** | **#** | ***%*** | **#** | ***%*** | **#** | ***%*** |
| **Pre-K** | 1 | *0.1* | 0 | *0.0* | 0 | *0.0* | 0 | *0.0* |
| **Kindergarten** | 4 | *0.4* | 1 | *0.1* | 3 | *0.3* | 2 | *0.2* |
| **1** | 3 | *0.3* | 6 | *0.6* | 8 | *0.9* | 8 | *0.9* |
| **2** | 23 | *2.3* | 20 | *2.1* | 18 | *1.9* | 13 | *1.4* |
| **3** | 29 | *2.8* | 28 | *3.0* | 20 | *2.1* | 27 | *3.0* |
| **4** | 72 | *7.1* | 59 | *6.2* | 42 | *4.5* | 49 | *5.4* |
| **5** | 92 | *9.0* | 93 | *9.8* | 72 | *7.7* | 96 | *10.5* |
| **6** | 137 | *13.4* | 169 | *17.8* | 136 | *14.5* | 122 | *13.3* |
| **7** | 159 | *15.6* | 155 | *16.4* | 167 | *17.8* | 133 | *14.5* |
| **8** | 186 | *18.2* | 143 | *15.1* | 182 | *19.4* | 178 | *19.5* |
| **9** | 150 | *14.7* | 122 | *12.9* | 111 | *11.9* | 121 | *13.2* |
| **10** | 80 | *7.8* | 84 | *8.9* | 78 | *8.3* | 85 | *9.3* |
| **11** | 50 | *4.9* | 40 | *4.2* | 57 | *6.1* | 52 | *5.7* |
| **12** | 34 | *3.3* | 27 | *2.8* | 42 | *4.5* | 29 | *3.2* |
| **SP\*** | 0 | *0.0* | 1 | *0.1* | 0.0 | *0.0* | 0.0 | *0.0* |
|  |
| **Student Totals** | **1,020** | ***100*** | **948** | ***100*** | **936** | ***100*** | **915** | ***100*** |

\*Beyond grade 12 special education student

# Table 3: Distribution of MA Public School Students with Bullying Disciplines by Student Group, School Year 2014-2015 (SY15)-SY18

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **STUDENT GROUP** | **SY15** | **SY16** | **SY17** | **SY18** |
| **#** | ***%*** | **#** | ***%*** | **#** | ***%*** | **#** | ***%*** |
| **Female** | 307 | *30.1* | 295 | *31.1* | 286 | *30.6* | 279 | *30.5* |
| **Male** | 713 | *69.9* | 653 | *68.9* | 650 | *69.4* | 636 | *69.5* |
|  |
| **African American/Black** | 193 | *18.9* | 198 | *20.9* | 153 | *16.3* | 137 | *15.0* |
| **American Indian or Alaskan Native** | 5 | *0.5* | 1 | *0.1* | 2 | *0.2* | 2 | *0.2* |
| **Asian** | 14 | *1.4* | 18 | *1.9* | 30 | *3.2* | 19 | *2.1* |
| **Hispanic or Latino** | 367 | *36.0* | 323 | *34.1* | 345 | *36.9* | 291 | *31.8* |
| **Multi-race, Non-Hispanic or Latino** | 23 | *2.3* | 34 | *3.6* | 34 | *3.6* | 38 | *4.2* |
| **Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander** | 1 | *0.1* | 1 | *0.1* | 0 | *0.0* | 1 | *0.1* |
| **White** | 417 | *40.9* | 373 | *39.3* | 372 | *39.7* | 427 | *46.7* |
|  |
| **Economically Disadvantaged** | 586 | *57.5* | 555 | *58.5* | 581 | *62.1* | 554 | *60.5* |
| **English Learner** | 91 | *8.9* | 105 | *11.1* | 119 | *12.7* | 105 | *11.5* |
| **High Needs** | 756 | *74.1* | 697 | *73.5* | 702 | *75.0* | 698 | *76.3* |
| **Students with Disabilities** | 381 | *37.4* | 339 | *35.8* | 323 | *34.5* | 347 | *37.9* |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Student Totals** | **1,020** | ***100*** | **948** | ***100*** | **936** | ***100*** | **915** | ***100*** |

# Number of Alleged Incidents of Bullying or Retaliation and Nature of Substantiated Incidents of Bullying or Retaliation

While some elements of the statute can be incorporated into current data collection systems, developing a uniform definition for alleged incidents of bullying and collecting information on the nature of bullying incidents presents a more complex challenge.

The Department has engaged stakeholders to contribute to the process of developing a uniform protocol to assist school districts in accurately collecting and reporting alleged incidents of bullying or retaliation data. Data collection for the number of reported allegations of bullying or retaliation will begin during SY20.

Additionally, as it may present significant challenges for districts to uniformly categorize and report information on the nature of substantiated bullying and retaliation incidents, the Department has engaged stakeholders to contribute to the process of developing a uniform protocol to assist school districts in accurately collecting and reporting data to meet this requirement as well. Confirming a process to collect and report on information about the nature of incidents will take place during SY20. Associated data collection will begin during SY21, and information will be included in subsequent annual reports.