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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 year 2017-2018 through school year 2020-2021.**June 2022** |
| Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education75 Pleasant Street, Malden, MA 02148-4906Phone 781-338-3000 TTY: N.E.T. Relay 800-439-2370www.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. James Morton, Vice Chair, BostonMs. Amanda Fernández, BelmontMr. Matt Hills, NewtonMs. Eleni Carris Livingston, Wellesley, Student MemberMs. Darlene Lombos, BostonMr. Michael Moriarty, HolyokeMr. James Peyser, Secretary of Education, MiltonMr. Paymon Rouhanifard, BrooklineMs. 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.© 2021 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 800-439-2370www.doe.mass.eduState Seal of Massachusetts |

***Massachusetts Department of***

***Elementary and Secondary Education***

*75 Pleasant Street, Malden, Massachusetts 02148-4906 Telephone: (781) 338-3000 TTY: N.E.T. Relay 1-800-439-2370*

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| Jeffrey C. Riley*Commissioner* |  |

June 21, 2022

Dear Members of the General Court and Attorney General Healey:

I am pleased to submit this Report to the Legislature: *Bullying Data – 2022 Annual Report* for school years 2017-2018 (SY18), SY19, SY20, and SY21. 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) through the [School Safety Discipline Report](https://www.doe.mass.edu/infoservices/data/ssdr/default.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.

This report provides information about data collected through the SSDR during SY18, SY19, SY20, and SY21.

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 AnneL.Gilligan@mass.gov 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 – 2022 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.”*

This is the second Bullying Data Collection Report submitted to the Legislature and the Office of the Attorney General. The first report was submitted in June 2019 with information from school years 2014-2015 (SY15) to SY18. Due to the wide-ranging school schedules associated with the pandemic in SY20 and SY21 (e.g., in-person, remote, hybrid), the data included in this second report is highly variable year to year. This report includes data from SY18-SY21. The Department plans to submit its next annual report by fall 2023.

# 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 through the SSDR since the inception of the requirement for SY18, SY19, SY20, and SY21. 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 additional training and technical assistance on all required data collection elements enumerated in the legislation. More consistent and uniform reporting will allow for data analysis to determine reductions or other changes more accurately in bullying related behaviors.

# Table 1: Massachusetts Public School Bullying Totals, School Year 2017-2018 (SY18) - SY21

| **School Year** | **Number of Substantiated Bullying Incidents Reported** | **Unduplicated Count of Students with a Removal Discipline for Bullying\*** | **Number of Districts Reporting Incidents** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 2017-2018 (SY18) | 1,935 | 915 | 267 |
| SY19 | 2,115 | 941 | 277 |
| SY20 | 1,409 | 535 | 239 |
| SY21 | 500 | 175 | 151 |

\*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 Years 2017-2018 (SY18) - SY21.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | **SY18** | **SY19** | **SY20** | **SY21** |
| **GRADE** | **#** | ***%*** | **#** | ***%*** | **#** | ***%*** | **#** | ***%*** |
| **Pre-K** | 0 | *0.0* | 0 | *0.0* | 0 | *0.0* | 0 | *0.0* |
| **Kindergarten** | 2 | *0.2* | 2 | *0.2* | 1 | *0.2* | 0 | *0.0* |
| **1** | 8 | *0.9* | 6 | *0.6* | 3 | *0.6* | 0 | *0.0* |
| **2** | 13 | *1.4* | 4 | *0.4* | 6 | *1.1* | 1 | *0.6* |
| **3** | 27 | *3.0* | 22 | *2.3* | 6 | *1.1* | 1 | *0.6* |
| **4** | 49 | *5.4* | 47 | *5.0* | 19 | *3.6* | 4 | *2.3* |
| **5** | 96 | *10.5* | 73 | *7.8* | 41 | *7.7* | 13 | *7.4* |
| **6** | 122 | *13.3* | 142 | *15.1* | 63 | *11.8* | 27 | *15.4* |
| **7** | 133 | *14.5* | 178 | *18.9* | 103 | *19.3* | 40 | *22.9* |
| **8** | 178 | *19.5* | 168 | *17.9* | 95 | *17.8* | 31 | *17.7* |
| **9** | 121 | *13.2* | 118 | *12.5* | 81 | *15.1* | 24 | *13.7* |
| **10** | 85 | *9.3* | 90 | *9.6* | 60 | *11.2* | 22 | *12.6* |
| **11** | 52 | *5.7* | 54 | *5.7* | 27 | *5.0* | 9 | *5.1* |
| **12** | 29 | *3.2* | 37 | *3.9* | 30 | *5.6* | 3 | *1.7* |
| **SP\*** | 0 | *0.0* | 0 | *0.0* | 0 | *0.0* | 0 | *0.0* |
|  |
| **Student Totals** | **915** | ***100*** | **941** | ***100*** | **535** | ***100*** | **175** | ***100*** |

\*Beyond grade 12 special education student

# Table 3: Distribution of MA Public School Students with Bullying Disciplines by Student Group, School Years 2017-2018 (SY18) - SY21.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **STUDENT GROUP** | **SY18** | **SY19** | **SY20** | **SY21** |
| **#** | ***%*** | **#** | ***%*** | **#** | ***%*** | **#** | ***%*** |
| **Female** | 279 | *30.5* | 311 | *33.0* | 176 | *32.9* | 48 | *27.4* |
| **Male** | 636 | *69.5* | 630 | *67.0* | 359 | *67.1* | 126 | *72.0* |
|  |
| **African American/Black** | 137 | *15.0* | 153 | *16.3* | 79 | *14.8* | 20 | *11.4* |
| **American Indian or Alaskan Native** | 2 | *0.2* | 4 | *0.4* | 1 | *0.2* | 0 | *0.0* |
| **Asian** | 19 | *2.1* | 19 | *2.0* | 9 | *1.7* | 3 | *1.7* |
| **Hispanic or Latino** | 291 | *31.8* | 306 | *32.5* | 156 | *29.2* | 27 | *15.4* |
| **Multi-race, Non-Hispanic or Latino** | 38 | *4.2* | 47 | *5.0* | 25 | *4.7* | 10 | *5.7* |
| **Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander** | 1 | *0.1* | 2 | *0.2* | 0 | *0.0* | 0 | *0.0* |
| **White** | 427 | *46.7* | 410 | *43.6* | 265 | *49.5* | 115 | *65.7* |
|  |
| **Economically Disadvantaged** | 554 | *60.5* | 564 | *59.9* | 331 | *61.9* | 92 | *52.6* |
| **English Learner** | 105 | *11.5* | 116 | *12.3* | 43 | *8.0* | 11 | *6.3* |
| **High Needs** | 698 | *76.3* | 696 | *74.0* | 415 | *77.6* | 124 | *70.9* |
| **Students with Disabilities** | 347 | *37.9* | 345 | *36.7* | 220 | *41.1* | 66 | *37.7* |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Student Totals** | **915** | ***100*** | **941** | ***100*** | **535** | ***100*** | **175** | ***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 SY22.