



DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION SERVICES

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Rob Smith, Superintendent
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FROM: Helene Hartman, Evaluation Data Specialist

CC: Walter McKenzie, Assistant Superintendent
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SUBJECT: Suspension Report by Race/Ethnicity and Disability Status for 2007-2008

DATE: November 21, 2008

In 2007-2008, 583 APS students received out-of-school suspensions a total of 1020 times. Attached is a summary of 2007-2008 out-of-school suspensions by the race/ethnicity for each school. We report the results by race/ethnicity to monitor the distribution of suspensions among student groups.

Definitions for the two main reporting categories and the gap follow.

- “Suspensions” counts each student one time for each suspension received.
- “Student/School Suspensions” counts each student only one time per school regardless of how many times he or she was suspended at that school.
- The gap represents the difference between the proportion of overall APS enrollment for an identified group and the proportion of suspensions.

In the report on the Strategic Plan Indicators, only suspensions for students who were still enrolled in the Arlington Public Schools at the end of the 2007-2008 school year were included, whereas all suspensions that occurred during the school year are reported in this document.

In Table 1, the APS population has traditionally been taken from the Civil Rights Report. Table 4 has been introduced this year to provide information about students with disabilities. In Table 4, the APS population has been taken from the data submitted in the State report at the end of each school year.

Out-of-school suspensions in 2007-08 showed an increase of 43% from 715 in 2006-07. However, in 2006-07, there had been a large decline from the previous year, and the 2007-08 suspensions count is close to the totals for the three years prior to 2006-07. Table 1 provides a summary of suspensions, students suspended and the related gaps by race/ethnicity from 2003-04 through 2007-08. The number of students who had been suspended increased slightly, still well below the earliest three years in Table 1.

Table 1
ALL SUSPENSIONS BY RACE/ETHNICITY
 Gap in the Proportion of Suspensions and Students Suspended
 Compared to Proportion of Total Enrollment¹

	School Year Ending	APS Total	Asian Percent	Black Percent	Hispanic Percent	White Percent
Population	2008	17819	11	13	26	48
	2007	17591	11	14	27	47
	2006	17584	10	14	29	46
	2005	17917	10	14	30	46
	2004	18247	10	14	32	43
Suspensions	2008	1020	5	32	45	19
	2007	715	8	30	40	23
	2006	1028	9	34	32	25
	2005	974	8	35	37	20
	2004	1055	6	34	39	21
Suspension Gap	2008		-6	19	19	-29
	2007		-3	16	13	-24
	2006		-1	20	3	-21
	2005		-2	21	7	-26
	2004		-4	20	7	-22
Student/ School Suspensions	2008	583	5	33	38	23
	2007	510	7	29	41	22
	2006	729	9	32	33	25
	2005	692	8	32	38	22
	2004	735	7	31	40	22
Student/ School Suspensions Gap	2008		-6	20	12	-25
	2007		-4	15	14	-25
	2006		-1	18	4	-21
	2005		-2	18	8	-24
	2004		-3	17	8	-21

¹ Gap is equal to the proportion of suspensions minus the proportion of the population. A positive proportion indicates the groups is overrepresented in the indicator.

Black students have been disproportionately overrepresented in suspensions since reporting started in 1999-2000. In 2003-04, Black students represented 34% of the suspensions and the gap was 20 percentage points. In 2007-08 Black students accounted for 32% while they make up 13% of the population, resulting in a gap of 19 percentage points. The gap for Black students increased by 3 percentage points from 2006-07 and decreased by 1 percentage point from 2003-2004.

Enrollment by Hispanic students in the Arlington Public Schools decreased from 27% in 2006-07 to 26% in 2007-08. The percentage of Hispanic students suspended increased from 40% to 45%, an increase of 5 percentage points. The gap for suspension of Hispanic students increased from 13 to 19 percentage points from 2006-07 to 2007-08. This increase continues the trend from 2006-2007. Prior to 2006-07, the gap for Hispanic students had been much lower.

Asian and White students continue to be underrepresented among the Arlington suspensions.

The number of students suspended did not increase by much but the number of suspensions did. This means students who were suspended were suspended more times – from 1.4 times per student suspended during the previous four years to 1.7 times per student suspended in 2007-08.

Table 2 shows the change in the number of suspensions by race/ethnicity and the percentage change from the previous year. In 2007-08, there was a 43% increase in the total number of suspensions from 2006-07 levels, 3% lower than the 1055 suspensions reported in 2003-04.

The percentage of suspensions among Asian students dropped 15% from the previous year, continuing the trend of decreasing numbers of suspensions started in 2006-07.

Suspensions among Black students increased by 53% from 2006-07 to 324 suspensions. The number of suspensions for Black students has alternated between increasing and decreasing numbers every year since 2003-04. The 2007-08 levels have dropped 10% from 362 suspensions reported in 2003-04.

The number of suspensions for Hispanic students increased significantly to an all time high since 2003-04, with 459 suspensions. This is 62% higher than the 284 suspensions reported in 2006-07, but only 11% higher than the 413 suspensions reported in 2003-04.

Suspensions for White students increased slightly with 189 suspensions in 2007-08. This is a 16% increase from a low of 163 suspensions in 2006-07, but and a 13% drop from 2003-04.

Table 2
SUSPENSIONS BY RACE/ETHNICITY
Change in Total Suspensions by Race/Ethnicity

Race/ Ethnicity	School Year Ending	Total Suspensions	Change
Total	2008	1020	43%
	2007	715	-30%
	2006	1028	6%
	2005	974	-8%
	2004	1055	
Asian	2008	46	-15%
	2007	54	-41%
	2006	91	21%
	2005	75	23%
	2004	61	
Black	2008	324	53%
	2007	212	-40%
	2006	354	4%
	2005	340	-6%
	2004	362	
Hispanic	2008	459	62%
	2007	284	-13%
	2006	326	-11%
	2005	365	-12%
	2004	413	
White	2008	189	16%
	2007	163	-36%
	2006	254	31%
	2005	194	-11%
	2004	218	

Table 3 reports suspensions by school level. Comparing 2007-08 to 2006-07, the total number of suspensions increased for Middle and High schools and remained the same for Elementary school.

Elementary suspensions maintained its 2006-2007 level of 49 suspensions, an all time low since and a decrease of 49% from the 97 suspensions reported in 2003-04.

Middle schools suspensions increased by 22%, from 283 suspensions in 2006-07 to 344 suspensions in 2007-08. This still represents a decrease of 25% from the 457 suspensions reported in 2003-04.

The greatest increase was across high schools, where the number of suspensions increased by 64%, from 383 suspensions in 2006-07 to 627 suspensions in 2007-08, an increase of 25% from the 501 suspensions reported in 2003-04.

Table 3
SUSPENSIONS BY SCHOOL LEVEL
Change in Total Suspensions by School Level

School Level	School Year Ending	Total Suspensions	Change
Total	2008	1020	43%
	2007	715	-30%
	2006	1028	6%
	2005	974	-8%
	2004	1055	
Elementary	2008	49	0%
	2007	49	-39%
	2006	80	-32%
	2005	118	22%
	2004	97	
Middle	2008	344	22%
	2007	283	-42%
	2006	484	16%
	2005	417	-9%
	2004	457	
High	2008	627	64%
	2007	383	-17%
	2006	464	6%
	2005	439	-12%
	2004	501	

For the first time, this memo addresses suspensions for students with disabilities. In the 2007-2008 report on the Strategic Plan Indicators, the gap for students with disabilities increased by 23 percentage points, prompting a more detailed review of the supporting data.

Students with disabilities have been highly overrepresented in suspensions in the last two years.

Enrollment in the Arlington Public Schools by students with disabilities remained constant at 15% in 2006-07 and 2007-08. The percentage of suspensions of students with disabilities increased from 47% to 62%, an increase of 15 percentage points. From 2006-07 to 2007-08, the gap for suspensions of students with disabilities increased from 32 to 47 percentage points, while the gap for students with disabilities suspended per school increased from 27 to 32 percentage points.

Table 4
ALL SUSPENSIONS BY DISABILITY STATUS
Gap in the Proportion of Suspensions and Students Suspended
Compared to Proportion of Total Enrollment¹

	School Year Ending	APS Total	With Disability Percent	Without Disability Percent
Population	2008	17852	15	85
	2007	17246	15	85
Suspensions	2008	1020	62	38
	2007	715	47	53
Suspension Gap	2008		47	-47
	2007		32	-32
Student/School Suspensions	2008	583	47	53
	2007	510	42	58
Student/School Suspension Gap	2008		32	-32
	2007		27	-27

¹ Gap is equal to the proportion of suspensions minus the proportion of the population. A positive proportion indicates the groups is overrepresented in the indicator.