



**ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Planning & Evaluation**

**MEMORANDUM**

**February 28, 2008**

To: Rob Smith, Meg Tuccillo

CC: Walter McKenzie, Kathy Wills

From: Lisa Stengle

RE: Suspension Report by Race/Ethnicity for 2006-2007

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In 2006-2007, 510 APS students received out-of-school suspensions a total of 715 times. Attached is a summary of 2006-2007 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.

Note that the number of suspensions reported in this memo exceeds the number of suspensions reported for APS in 2006-07 on the state website. In 2006-07, all APS schools reported suspensions in ESchool+ for the first time. In past years, paper reports were faxed to Administrative Services and they maintained a suspension database, separate from the student database. After suspension data was submitted to the state, Planning and Evaluation prepared an initial draft of this memo in August. During its review, Administrative Services noted that the number of suspensions for some schools were misreported based on their monitoring suspensions. The misreporting was the result of some implementation problems with the new data gathering procedures. Staff from Information and Administrative Services worked with schools to audit all suspensions and the data reported in this memo is complete. In December, 2007, the data was resubmitted to and accepted by the state. The state indicated that it will not correct Arlington's suspension data that currently reported on the state's website.

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

- "Suspensions" counts each student one time for each suspension received.
- "Students suspended" counts each student only one time regardless of how many times he or she was suspended.
- The gap represents the difference between the proportion of overall APS enrollment for an identified group and the proportion of suspensions.

Out-of-school suspensions hit an all time low in 2006-07, down 30% from 1,028 in 2005-06. Table 1 provides a summary of suspensions, students suspended and the related gaps by race/ethnicity from 2002-03 through 2006-07.

Table 1  
**ALL SUSPENSIONS BY RACE/ETHNICITY**  
 Gap in the Proportion of Suspensions and Students Suspended  
 Compared to Proportion of Total Enrollment<sup>1</sup>

	School Year Ending	APS Total Population (Number)	Asian Percent	Black Percent	Hispanic Percent	White Percent
Population	2007	17591	11	14	27	47
	2006	17584	10	14	29	46
	2005	17917	10	14	30	46
	2004	18247	10	14	32	43
	2003	18464	10	14	34	42
Suspensions	2007	715	8	30	40	23
	2006	1028	9	34	32	25
	2005	974	8	35	37	20
	2004	1055	6	34	39	21
	2003	825	6	37	36	21
Suspension Gap	2007		-3	16	13	-24
	2006		-1	20	3	-21
	2005		-2	21	7	-26
	2004		-4	20	7	-22
	2003		-4	23	2	-21
Students Suspended	2007	510	7	29	41	22
	2006	729	9	32	33	25
	2005	692	8	32	38	22
	2004	735	7	31	40	22
	2003	587	7	32	39	21
Students Suspended Gap	2007		-4	15	14	-25
	2006		-1	18	4	-21
	2005		-2	18	8	-24
	2004		-3	17	8	-21
	2003		-3	18	5	-21

<sup>1</sup> 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 2002-03, Black students represented 37% of the suspensions and the gap was 23 percentage points. In 2006-07 Black students accounted for 30% while they make up 14% of the population, resulting in a gap of 16 percentage points. The gap for Black students decreased by 4 percentage points from 2005-06 and by 7 percentage points from 2002-2003.

Enrollment by Hispanic students in the Arlington Public Schools decreased from 29% in 2005-06 to 27% in 2006-07. The percentage of Hispanic students suspended increased from 32% to 40%, an increase of 8 percentage points. The gap for suspension of Hispanic students increased from 3 to 13 percentage points from 2005-06 to 2006-07.

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

Table 2 shows the change in the number of suspensions by race/ethnicity and the actual change over time. In 2006-07, there was a 30% drop in the number of total suspensions from 2005-06 levels, 13% lower than the 825 suspensions reported in 2002-03.

The percentage of suspensions among Asian students dropped 41% from the previous year, and deviating from the trend of increasing numbers of suspensions since 2002-03.

Suspensions for among Black students dropped by 40% from 2005-06 to an all time low of 212 suspensions, and falling below 300 for the first time. The number of suspensions for Black students has alternated from increasing and decreasing numbers every year since 2002-03. The 2006-07 levels have dropped 30% from 305 suspensions reported in 2002-03.

The number of suspensions for Hispanic students fell to its lowest level since 2003-04, with 284 suspensions. This is 13% lower than the 326 suspensions reported in 2005-06, but only 5% lower than the 299 suspensions reported in 2002-03.

Suspensions for White students hit their lowest level with 163 suspensions in 2006-07. This is a 36% drop from a high of 254 suspensions in 2005-06, but and a 5 percent drop from 2002-03.

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

Race/ Ethnicity	School Year Ending	Total Suspensions (Count)	Change
Total	2007	715	-30%
	2006	1028	6%
	2005	974	-8%
	2004	1055	28%
	2003	825	
Asian	2007	54	-41%
	2006	91	21%
	2005	75	23%
	2004	61	27%
	2003	48	
Black	2007	212	-40%
	2006	354	4%
	2005	340	-6%
	2004	362	19%
	2003	305	
Hispanic	2007	284	-13%
	2006	326	-11%
	2005	365	-12%
	2004	413	38%
	2003	299	
White	2007	163	-36%
	2006	254	31%
	2005	194	-11%
	2004	218	26%
	2003	173	

Table 3 reports suspensions by school level. Comparing 2006-07 to 2005-06, the total number of suspensions decreased for all school levels.

Elementary suspensions reached its lowest levels with 49 suspensions, or a 39% decrease from the previous year, and decrease of 51% from the 101 suspensions reported in 2002-03.

The greatest decrease was across middle schools, where the number of suspensions decreased by 42%, from 484 suspensions in 2005-06 to 283 suspensions in 2006-07, a decrease 9% from the 311 suspensions reported in 2002-03.

High schools suspensions decreased 17% from the 2005-06 levels, and 17% from the 413 suspensions reported in 2002-03.

This data will be used to calculate the strategic plan target of eliminating the gap in suspensions. If you have questions, please contact me.

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

School Level	School Year Ending	Total Suspensions	change
Total	2007	715	-30%
	2006	1028	6%
	2005	974	-8%
	2004	1055	28%
	2003	825	
Elementary	2007	49	-39%
	2006	80	-32%
	2005	118	22%
	2004	97	-4%
	2003	101	
Middle	2007	283	-42%
	2006	484	16%
	2005	417	-9%
	2004	457	47%
	2003	311	
High	2007	383	-17%
	2006	464	6%
	2005	439	-12%
	2004	501	21%
	2003	413	