

Reduction of suspensions and expulsions for grades prekindergarten through three

Each Child, Our Future, Ohio's strategic plan for education, highlights the need for a positive climate in every school to support student well-being, academic achievement and future success. Ohio law requires districts and community schools to eliminate, by the 2021-2022 school year, out-of-school suspensions and expulsions for students in prekindergarten through grade 3 for offenses that do not pose significant danger to school and student safety. Offenses that pose significant danger and are exempt from the law are defined below.

Districts and schools are required to phase in reductions in the number of out-of-school suspensions or expulsions allowed for prekindergarten through grade 3 students using the district's 2018-2019 school year data as a baseline as follows:

School Year	Percent of Out-of-School Suspension/Expulsion Reductions
2018-2019	0 percent reduction
2019-2020	25 percent reduction
2020-2021	50 percent reduction
2021-2022	100 percent reduction

Districts may view their 2019-2020 prekindergarten through third grade out-of-school suspension and expulsion numbers and target reduction numbers in the data collector. Districts also will find their target reduction percentages for out-of-school suspensions and expulsions for students in grades prekindergarten through grade 3 for school years 2019-2020, 2020-2021 and 2021-2022. Districts should use this data to track and reduce out-of-school suspensions and expulsions for prekindergarten through grade 3 students. The Ohio Department of Education will provide data to districts annually to ensure their compliance with Ohio law.

The number of students in prekindergarten through grade 3 who were suspended or expelled out of school may be lower than a typical year due to the state-ordered school building closure beginning March 16, 2020.

Offenses that Pose Significant Danger

The reduction and elimination requirement does **not** include out-of-school suspensions or expulsions related to circumstances that pose significant danger to school and student safety. Districts and schools are not required to reduce or eliminate out-of-school suspensions and expulsions for these reasons:

- Bringing a firearm to a school or any other district property;
- Bringing a firearm to an interscholastic competition, extracurricular event or any other school program or activity that is not on the district's property;
- Bringing a knife capable of causing serious bodily injury to a school or other district property, interscholastic competition, extracurricular event, or other program or activity sponsored by the school or in which the district is participating;
- Possessing a firearm or knife capable of serious bodily injury (including any initially brought on school property by another person) at a school or other district property, interscholastic competition, extracurricular event, or any other school program or activity.
- Committing an act that is a criminal offense when committed by an adult and that results in serious physical harm to persons or property while the student is at school, on other district property, or at an interscholastic competition, extracurricular event, or any other school program or activity;

- Making a bomb threat to a school building or any premises at which a school activity is occurring at the time of the threat.

More information on using [Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports \(PBIS\)](#) to reduce out-of-school suspensions and expulsions can be found on the Department's Creating Caring Communities [webpage](#). Please reach out to your State Support Team or Educational Service Centers for more information on PBIS training opportunities.

For questions, please contact the Office of Integrated Student Supports at wholechild@education.ohio.gov or (614) 466-7956.