



Memorandum

Date: March 31, 2020
To: Board of Education
From: Kevin Kaardal, Superintendent of Schools/CEO
Prepared by: Dr. Peter Molloy, Director of Instruction – Student Support Services
Information: **Suspension Summary Report: 2013-2014 to 2018-2019**

1.0 RELEVANT BOARD MOTION/DIRECTION

Board Policy 455 – Discipline and Regulations 455R – Discipline (*Regulations*) (attached as Appendix A).

2.0 BACKGROUND

Since 1991, the Board has received an annual summary of suspensions for the previous six years. Suspensions are divided into two categories:

- DEFINITE suspensions are given to those students who have committed infractions and are suspended up to a maximum of ten days.
- INDEFINITE suspensions are given to students who are repeat offenders or students who have committed very serious infractions. These students are suspended for an indefinite period of time (more than ten days) and must appear before a committee of the Board of Education.

3.0 SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

The decision to suspend a student is only made after the circumstances have been given serious consideration. Suspension can, however, be a necessary and effective way to address challenges with student behaviour. Definite suspensions (from one to ten days) are a decision of the school-based administration, while indefinite suspensions require a hearing involving a Trustee and a District staff member. All suspensions are subject to the appeal process.

Indefinite suspensions remain relatively rare considering the number of students in the School District, with 3 taking place in total during the 2018-2019 school year.

Definite suspensions are far more common (1,161 in 2018/2019) and the reasons for suspensions as well as the grade level of students are more varied. Almost 100% of students return to their previous educational program at the conclusion of the definite suspension.

The total numbers for indefinite suspensions decreased to 3 in 2018/2019 from 11 in 2017/2018. Definite suspensions also decreased to 1,161 in 2018/2019 from 1,287 in 2017/2018.

4.0 APPENDICES

- A. Policy 455 – Discipline and Regulations 455R – Discipline (*Regulations*)
- B. Suspension Summaries: 2013-2014 to 2018-2019
- C. Indefinite and Definite Suspensions Data Analysis 2018-2019 and Summary

APPENDIX A



“Together We Learn”

School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan)

Policies And Procedures

Section Four: Students

455 – DISCIPLINE

Introduction

The Board of Education believes that respect and discipline are important elements which affect all students’ experience and achievement at school. To this end, the Board is committed to providing a safe, caring and orderly environment for everyone in the school environment.

A safe school environment is conducive to learning and the development of positive interpersonal interactions among students, employees, parents and the community. Such positive interpersonal interactions are characterized by courtesy and respect for one another.

Policy

Code of Conduct

1. Principals at each school, in consultation with all partner groups and students where appropriate, shall establish and review annually a code of conduct for the school. The code of conduct shall include statements of expectations for student attendance and behaviour. The code of conduct must be consistent with the School Act and Regulations as well as Board policy. In addition, the code should be mindful of the intended audience and include statements promoting positive attitudes towards school, respect for the dignity of others, their rights and property, and the importance of regular school attendance.
2. The Board believes all staff set the tone for what is considered to be appropriate student behaviour.
3. It is the duty of all administrators and teachers to enforce the code of conduct.
4. It is expected that students will abide by the school’s code of conduct going to and from school, while at school, on school buses and at school functions, including field studies, wherever and whenever held.
5. The Board believes prompt notification by administration to parents or guardians is essential in dealing with matters related to student conduct, discipline and safety.



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6. Disciplinary actions arising as a result of students not adhering to the code of conduct will be based on the concept of progressive discipline and the least possible erosion of instructional time. Principals must use discretion in determining the seriousness of the situation and in deciding upon the appropriate consequence.
7. Schools should develop and implement initiatives or programs designed to assist students in learning acceptable coping behaviours for dealing with anger, fear and peer pressure. Schools should also promote the development of healthy self-concepts and positive school environments.

Date Agreed: April 23, 1980

Date Amended: June 13, 1990; February 23, 1994; June 24, 1998;

Date Agreed: November 13, 2002

Date Amended: June 23, 2004; June 10, 2009; October 23, 2019

Related Documents: School Act Sec. 6,7, School Reg. 4,5, 455R



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Section Four: Students

**455R – DISCIPLINE
(REGULATIONS)**

1. Code of Conduct

- 1.1 The code of conduct must be distributed to the staff, students and parents at the beginning of each school year and at regular intervals through the year.
 - 1.1.1 Students enrolling at the school during the year shall be provided with a copy of the school code of conduct.
 - 1.1.2 Staff joining a school during the school year shall be provided with a copy of the school code of conduct.
- 1.2 Every student shall be subject to the code of conduct.
 - 1.2.1 Principals will ensure, where appropriate, that special needs students who violate the code of conduct are referred to the school-based team, and that the code of conduct (including consequences) is applied to them in a manner that reflects their intellectual, physical, sensory, emotional or behavioural abilities.
- 1.3 Principals shall ensure that the school code of conduct is displayed in a prominent area of the school.
- 1.4 The principal may include, in the code of conduct, examples of possible action to be taken for a student who does not adhere to the code.
- 1.5 The code of conduct must indicate that students may be disciplined for violations which occur going to and from school, off school property (and outside of regular school hours), if such violations adversely affect students or the operation of any school.
- 1.6 Principals shall include and address the following list of violations and information on serious violations in the school's code of conduct.

To be included and addressed in the school's code of conduct:

▪ **Attendance**

Every student shall be required to attend school on each prescribed school day and shall not leave school without authorization (as determined by the school's code of conduct).



Section Four: Students

- **Truancy**
A student who is truant on a frequent basis may be definitely suspended.
- **Smoking/Vaping**
By provincial law, smoking/vaping is not allowed in any school buildings, or on school property. A student found smoking/vaping may be definitely suspended. A condition of return to school will be a conference between the parents/guardians, the student and the principal. See Policy 640: *District Smoke-Free Environment*.
- **Cannabis Products**
Smoking Cannabis or consuming cannabis products on school property is illegal. A student consuming cannabis or under the influence of cannabis products may be definitely suspended.
- **Alcohol**
A student consuming or possessing intoxicating liquor on the school premises or at a school function on/off school premises may be definitely suspended.
- **Failure of a Student to Apply Him/Herself to Their Studies**
Where a student 16 years of age or older repeatedly fails to apply him/herself to their studies, as set out in the *School Act*, Section 85(3), that student may be indefinitely suspended.
- **Language**
A student who uses inappropriate language may be definitely suspended.
- **Student Dress**
Students must dress appropriately for school and school events, as determined by the Principal in consultation with the Parent Advisory Council and staff.
- **Wilful Disobedience**
A student who is wilfully disobedient to a teacher or any other employee of the Board of Education carrying out responsibilities approved by the Board may be definitely suspended.



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Section Four: Students

- **Repeated Violations of Smoking/Vaping, Alcohol Abuse, Truancy or Inappropriate Language**

A student may be indefinitely suspended.

- **Bomb Threat**

A student involved in a bomb threat may be indefinitely suspended.

- **Drugs**

The possession or exchange of drugs is illegal and is known to have harmful effects on health. No student may come to school having consumed drugs, consume drugs at school, exchange or possess drugs while attending school or a school-sponsored activity.

A student involved in the possession, exchange or use of drugs other than those medically prescribed for the student's use, on school premises or at a school function on or off school premises, may be indefinitely suspended.

- **Vandalism, Violent Behaviour, Assault or Intimidation (Bullying)**

A student involved in vandalism, violent behaviour, assault or intimidation may be definitely or indefinitely suspended.

- **Possession of Weapons**

Use of a weapon or any implement used as a weapon is prohibited.

A student in the possession of a weapon may be definitely or indefinitely suspended.

- **Student Use of Electronic Communication and Social Media**

Use of electronic and social media communication which violates the terms outlined in Policy 486 – *Student Use of Electronic and Social Media Communication*, the Student Network Account and Internet Agreement, or the school's Code of Conduct may result in serious consequences including definite or indefinite suspensions and/or police intervention.

- **Serious Violations are those which:**

- a. occur repeatedly;
- b. may be dangerous to the safety of students, teachers and staff;
- c. may cause health hazards;
- d. may constitute criminal acts;
- e. may lead to indefinite suspensions.



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- **Discrimination or similar acts as defined by the BC Human Rights Code.**

- Any participants (students, staff, parents or visitors) in school business, activities or events shall conduct themselves in a manner that does not contravene the BC Human Rights Code and its basic principles of respect and fairness.
- No person shall discriminate against another person(s) either within the school environment or through the school system and its related function through publication or in accommodation, service or facility.

- 1.7 Principals shall ensure school codes of conduct are reviewed on an annual basis with staff, parents and students to assess the effectiveness of the code of conduct in addressing current school safety issues.

2. Breaches of the Code of Conduct

- 2.1 Students who do not abide by the code of conduct may be subject to disciplinary measures.
- 2.2 The principal must use discretion in determining the seriousness of the situation and in deciding upon consequences. This must include consideration of the student's age, maturity, and special needs, if any. The principal must also ensure appropriate supports are provided to students who violate the code.
- 2.3 The following circumstances will be reported to the RCMP, as well as the student's parents, if there is sufficient evidence that a student while under school supervision:
- is in possession of or is trafficking an illicit drug, or
 - has violated a federal or provincial statute.
- 2.4 Any person reporting an incident or suspected incident shall be protected as much as possible from retaliation.

3. Suspensions

A suspension is a removal of a student's right to attend regularly scheduled instructional sessions. All suspensions must be immediately reported to the parents or guardians. School personnel may not discharge a student from the school until a parent/guardian, a designate of a parent/guardian or a representative from the Ministry of Children and Family Development is prepared to assume responsibility for the student. During the period of a suspension, principals shall ensure that suspended students are provided with appropriate schoolwork.

Whenever possible and appropriate, consequences for contraventions of the code of conduct shall be restorative in nature rather than punitive.



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Suspensions may be either:

Definite – up to and including ten school days. Definite suspensions are the responsibility of the school-based administrator, or

Indefinite – in excess of ten school days. Indefinite suspensions must be referred to the Board’s District Suspension Review Committee.

Suspensions, both definite and indefinite, may have one or more of the following objectives to:

- improve and/or correct student behaviour;
- deter other students from similar behaviour;
- plan proactive educational interventions;
- clarify and solve problems;
- protect the suspended student and/or other students/staff from dangerous behaviours;
- provide or develop restorative justice opportunities.

- 3.1 Principals may suspend a student when he/she concludes that a student fails to comply with the school’s code of conduct.
- 3.2 The principal may remove a suspension he/she has imposed on a student.
- 3.3 At all levels of the suspension process parents may seek help from an advocate.
- 3.4 The Principal must send a suspension letter to the parent or guardian of the student, and a copy to the Chairperson of the District Review Committee, outlining the type of incident and the duration of suspension. When an indefinite suspension has been applied, the principal shall append to the letter to the parent/guardian an information sheet (Form 455.1) provided by the chairperson of the District Suspension Review Committee which explains the purpose of the Committee, the agenda for the meeting, the right of the parent/guardian to invite a family advocate, and the right of the parent/guardian to appeal decisions to the Board.
- 3.5 As soon as is practicable after receipt of an indefinite suspension report the District Suspension Review Committee will meet to review the suspension. This meeting will take place after a minimum of ten school days from the date of the suspension.

4. Records

To ensure appropriate tracking and due process, the principal must record:

- 4.1 the date or dates warnings were given, the reasons for the warnings and actions taken by the school;



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- 4.2 arrangements have been made for interviews with the parents/guardians and the dates on which the interviews have been held; and comments made by parents.

5. District Suspension Review Committee

- 5.1 The District Suspension Review Committee, as authorized by Policy 170, shall comprise two members:
- the Superintendent of Schools (or designate) as chairperson; and
 - a trustee.
- 5.2 The Superintendent (or designate) shall convene a meeting of the District Suspension Review Committee, as soon as may be practical, to discuss an indefinitely suspended student.
- 5.3 The principal (or designate), the student, along with his/her parent/guardian and/or advocate, and an interpreter/translator, if necessary, shall be invited to meet with the committee to discuss the suspension.
- 5.4 The District Suspension Review Committee may not meet unless both the suspended student and a parent/guardian are present.
- 5.5 The committee shall develop and implement recommendations concerning the education, health, and welfare of the suspended student.
- 5.6 Parents/guardians shall be fully informed, in writing, of their right to appeal any recommendations of the District Suspension Review Committee directly to the Board (as per Appeals Policy 460), and to their rights to have a family advocate(s) present at the meeting.

Date Agreed: November 13, 2002

Date Amended: June 11, 2003; June 23, 2004; May 11, 2005; December 6, 2007;
June 10, 2009; November 26, 2014; October 24, 2018

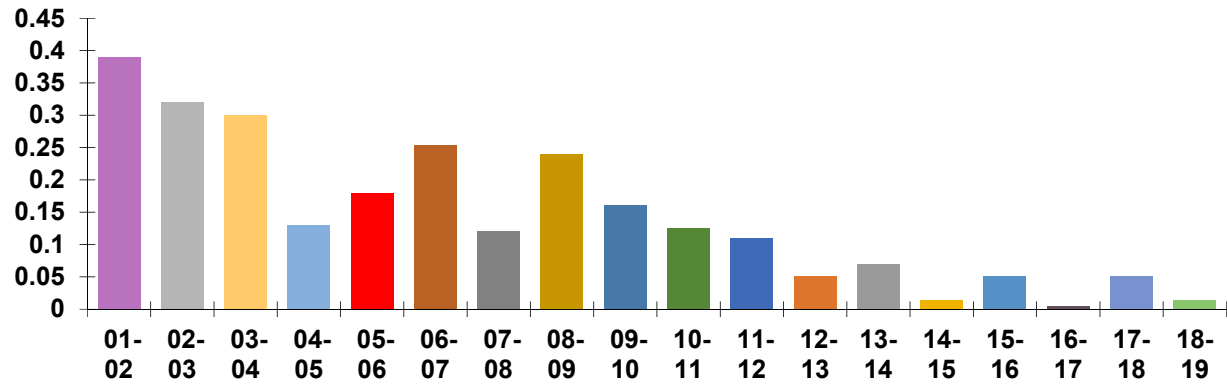
Date Reviewed:

Related Documents: School Act Sec. 6, 85(3), BC Human Rights Code, Form
455.1, Policies 170, 460, 486, 640

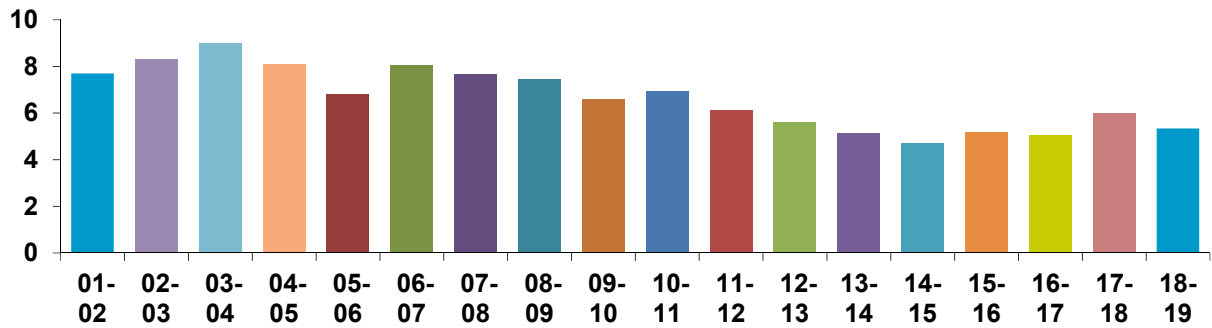
APPENDIX B

TABLE 1 – SUSPENSIONS AS A PERCENTAGE OF DISTRICT POPULATION

INDEFINITE SUSPENSION



DEFINITE SUSPENSIONS



INDEFINITE SUSPENSIONS

TABLE 2 - INDEFINITE SUSPENSIONS BY GRADE AND REASON

2018-2019

GRADE	ALC	ASSAULT	BEHAV	DRUGS	FIGHT	LANG	SMOKE/ VAPING	THEFT	TRUANT	VANDAL	WEAPN	TOTAL
2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
12	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
PT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3

2017-2018

GRADE	ALC	ASSAULT	BEHAV	DRUGS	FIGHT	LANG	SMOKE	THEFT	TRUANT	VANDAL	WEAPN	TOTAL
2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
9	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
10	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
11	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
PT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	0	3	3	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	11

2016 - 2017

GRADE	ALC	ASSAULT	BEHAV	DRUGS	FIGHT	LANG	SMOKE	THEFT	TRUANT	VANDAL	WEAPN	TOTAL
2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

TABLE 2 - INDEFINITE SUSPENSIONS BY GRADE AND REASON - continued

2015 - 2016

GRADE	ALC	ASSAULT	BEHAV	DRUGS	FIGHT	LANG	SMOKE	THEFT	TRUANT	VANDAL	WEAPN	TOTAL
2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
10	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
11	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
12	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
PT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	0	0	3	3	2	0	0	1	1	1	0	11

2014 - 2015

GRADE	ALC	ASSAULT	BEHAV	DRUGS	FIGHT	LANG	SMOKE	THEFT	TRUANT	VANDAL	WEAPN	TOTAL
2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
PT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3

2013 - 2014

GRADE	ALC	ASSAULT	BEHAV	DRUGS	FIGHT	LANG	SMOKE	THEFT	TRUANT	VANDAL	WEAPN	TOTAL
2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
10	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
11	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
12	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
PT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	0	0	2	9	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	15

TABLE 3 - INDEFINITE SUSPENSIONS BY GENDER AND REASON**2018-2019**

	ALC	ASSAULT	BEHAV	DRUGS	FIGHT	LANG	SMOKE/ VAPING	THEFT	TRUANT	VANDAL	WEAPON	TOTAL
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Male	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Total	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3

2017-2018

	ALC	ASSAULT	BEHAV	DRUGS	FIGHT	LANG	SMOKE	THEFT	TRUANT	VANDAL	WEAPON	TOTAL
Female	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Male	0	3	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	10
Total	0	3	3	2	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	11

2016 - 2017

	ALC	ASSAULT	BEHAV	DRUGS	FIGHT	LANG	SMOKE	THEFT	TRUANT	VANDAL	WEAPON	TOTAL
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Male	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

2015 - 2016

	ALC	ASSAULT	BEHAV	DRUGS	FIGHT	LANG	SMOKE	THEFT	TRUANT	VANDAL	WEAPON	TOTAL
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
Male	0	0	3	3	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	9
Total	0	0	3	3	2	0	0	1	1	2	0	11

2014 - 2015

	ALC	ASSAULT	BEHAV	DRUGS	FIGHT	LANG	SMOKE	THEFT	TRUANT	VANDAL	WEAPON	TOTAL
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Male	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
Total	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3

2013 - 2014

	ALC	ASSAULT	BEHAV	DRUGS	FIGHT	LANG	SMOKE	THEFT	TRUANT	VANDAL	WEAPON	TOTAL
Female	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Male	0	2	0	8	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	14
Total	0	2	0	9	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	15

TABLE 4 - INDEFINITE SUSPENSIONS BY GENDER AND GRADE

2018-2019

	gr3	gr4	gr5	gr6	gr7	gr8	gr9	gr10	gr11	gr12	PT	WE		TOTAL
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0		3
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0		3

2017-2018

	gr3	gr4	gr5	gr6	gr7	gr8	gr9	gr10	gr11	gr12	PT	WE		TOTAL
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0		1
Male	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	2	2	1	0	0		10
	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	3	2	1	0	0		11

2016 - 2017

	gr2	gr4	gr5	gr6	gr7	gr8	gr9	gr10	gr11	gr12	PT	WE		TOTAL
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0		1
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0		1

2015 - 2016

	gr2	gr4	gr5	gr6	gr7	gr8	gr9	gr10	gr11	gr12	PT	WE		TOTAL
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0		2
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	3	1	0	0		9
	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	3	2	0	0		11

2014 - 2015

	gr2	gr4	gr5	gr6	gr7	gr8	gr9	gr10	gr11	gr12	PT	WE		TOTAL
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0		3
	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0		3

2013 - 2014

	gr2	gr4	gr5	gr6	gr7	gr8	gr9	gr10	gr11	gr12	PT	WE		TOTAL
Female	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0		1
Male	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	5	3	0	0		14
	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	5	4	0	0		15

DEFINITE SUSPENSIONS

TABLE 5 – DEFINITE SUSPENSIONS BY GRADE AND REASON

2018-2019

GRADE	ALC	ASSAULT	BEHAV	BULLY	DRUGS	FIGHT	LANG	SMOKE VAPING	THEFT	TRUANT	VANDAL	WEAPON	TOTAL
K	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	4
1	0	0	4	1	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
2	0	2	4	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
3	0	3	11	1	0	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	20
4	0	2	10	1	0	12	0	1	1	0	1	0	28
5	0	0	16	2	0	19	0	5	1	0	0	2	45
6	0	3	34	5	0	21	3	12	1	0	2	5	86
7	2	4	57	7	9	33	2	30	1	8	2	2	157
8	17	14	77	16	38	50	6	46	5	25	1	3	298
9	7	9	72	11	33	22	4	57	5	14	8	3	245
10	4	6	27	0	21	7	0	21	2	27	2	2	119
11	7	4	19	0	14	15	1	15	0	23	0	0	98
12	1	1	14	1	13	1	0	2	0	11	0	0	44
SU	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	38	48	348	45	128	190	16	189	18	108	16	17	1161

2017-2018

GRADE	ALC	ASSAULT	BEHAV	BULLY	DRUGS	FIGHT	LANG	SMOKE	THEFT	TRUANT	VANDAL	WEAPON	TOTAL
K	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
1	0	3	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
2	0	0	3	1	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	7
3	0	0	14	1	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	23
4	0	2	17	5	0	18	0	1	0	0	0	1	44
5	0	3	21	0	0	22	0	0	0	0	2	0	48
6	4	3	27	13	1	14	2	0	0	0	0	0	64
7	5	5	52	10	11	35	2	14	4	4	3	1	146
8	18	12	74	36	21	27	7	23	4	23	0	2	247
9	9	7	70	20	29	19	2	38	6	39	3	3	245
10	2	4	52	4	38	24	1	4	10	65	0	1	205
11	6	3	37	2	21	15	2	10	2	67	0	0	165
12	4	0	18	0	14	3	1	2	5	33	2	0	82
SU	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	48	42	390	92	135	191	17	92	31	231	10	8	1287

TABLE 5 – DEFINITE SUSPENSIONS BY GRADE AND REASON - continued
2016 - 2017

GRADE	ALC	ASSAULT	BEHAV	BULLY	DRUGS	FIGHT	LANG	SMOKE	THEFT	TRUANT	VANDAL	WEAPON	TOTAL
K	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
1	0	0	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
2	0	0	11	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	15
3	0	1	10	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	14
4	0	1	7	0	0	15	0	0	2	0	0	1	26
5	0	1	16	2	0	9	1	0	3	0	0	1	33
6	0	2	23	3	0	11	2	0	2	0	4	1	48
7	4	16	52	9	7	24	1	8	2	19	1	7	150
8	5	12	78	7	26	18	5	14	9	19	1	3	197
9	7	4	61	5	13	11	3	22	5	21	1	6	159
10	3	3	60	3	33	17	4	10	12	58	2	2	207
11	6	2	28	1	23	9	0	13	5	35	3	2	127
12	7	2	23	0	8	4	1	6	0	33	0	0	84
SU	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	32	45	374	32	110	120	17	73	42	185	13	24	1067

2015 - 2016

GRADE	ALC	ASSAULT	BEHAV	BULLY	DRUGS	FIGHT	LANG	SMOKE	THEFT	TRUANT	VANDAL	WEAPON	TOTAL
K	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
1	0	5	1	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
2	0	3	8	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
3	0	2	9	4	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	18
4	0	6	13	3	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	28
5	0	3	11	3	0	12	1	0	0	1	0	0	31
6	0	2	12	2	0	17	1	0	0	0	0	0	34
7	4	1	34	15	1	29	1	10	1	0	5	2	103
8	14	3	64	27	20	36	7	13	2	22	2	6	216
9	12	9	76	19	45	28	1	28	4	29	6	3	260
10	2	7	47	10	36	5	1	19	5	38	7	1	178
11	12	2	54	2	23	5	2	17	1	22	2	0	142
12	5	0	26	2	20	1	0	13	3	23	0	1	94
SU	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	49	44	359	87	145	147	15	100	16	135	22	14	1133

TABLE 5 – DEFINITE SUSPENSIONS BY GRADE AND REASON - continued

2014 - 2015

GRADE	ALC	ASSAULT	BEHAV	BULLY	DRUGS	FIGHT	LANG	SMOKE	THEFT	TRUANT	VANDAL	WEAPON	TOTAL
K	0	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
1	0	1	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
2	0	1	10	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
3	0	1	4	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	11
4	0	5	21	0	0	8	1	0	2	2	1	1	41
5	0	5	16	1	0	8	1	0	2	0	3	2	38
6	0	7	19	3	0	11	2	0	0	1	1	1	45
7	3	0	17	0	7	32	1	2	1	1	0	1	65
8	5	7	71	8	37	23	2	11	1	15	2	4	186
9	4	5	65	11	48	20	3	15	7	19	2	5	204
10	2	8	37	7	31	2	0	8	3	39	2	1	140
11	6	4	40	0	35	4	1	5	8	48	3	1	155
12	6	0	20	2	14	1	0	5	3	35	5	0	91
SU	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	26	46	328	34	172	114	11	46	27	160	20	16	1000

2013 - 2014

GRADE	ALC	ASSAULT	BEHAV	BULLY	DRUGS	FIGHT	LANG	SMOKE	THEFT	TRUANT	VANDAL	WEAPON	TOTAL
K	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	9
2	0	2	6	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	11
3	0	1	10	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	13
4	1	3	8	0	1	6	0	0	1	0	3	1	24
5	0	10	20	4	0	8	0	0	1	0	0	1	44
6	0	6	20	2	0	11	2	0	0	0	0	0	41
7	7	7	36	13	7	5	2	1	8	10	2	1	99
8	3	15	47	9	36	25	3	1	12	13	1	1	166
9	8	6	62	5	45	14	5	9	6	31	1	6	198
10	2	4	52	8	57	10	1	4	6	84	4	7	239
11	3	6	26	2	41	7	0	0	3	56	1	1	146
12	8	4	26	0	31	3	0	2	4	35	1	2	116
SU	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	32	68	317	44	218	91	14	17	42	229	14	20	1106

TABLE 6 – DEFINITE SUSPENSIONS BY GENDER AND REASON

2018-2019

	ALC	ASSAULT	BEHAV	BULLY	DRUGS	FIGHT	LANG	SMOKE/ VAPING	THEFT	TRUANT	VANDAL	WEAPON	TOTAL
Female	23	7	71	13	56	22	3	88	3	58	2	2	348
Male	15	41	277	32	72	168	13	101	15	50	14	15	813
	38	48	348	45	128	190	16	189	18	108	16	17	1161

2017-2018

	ALC	ASSAULT	BEHAV	BULLY	DRUGS	FIGHT	LANG	SMOKE	THEFT	TRUANT	VANDAL	WEAPON	TOTAL
Female	26	7	93	20	50	30	1	47	10	103	3	0	390
Male	22	35	297	72	85	161	16	45	21	128	7	8	897
	48	42	390	92	135	191	17	92	31	231	10	8	1287

2016 - 2017

	ALC	ASSAULT	BEHAV	BULLY	DRUGS	FIGHT	LANG	SMOKE	THEFT	TRUANT	VANDAL	WEAPON	TOTAL
Female	20	6	75	9	42	17	2	28	14	66	1	2	282
Male	12	39	299	23	67	103	15	46	28	119	12	22	785
	32	45	374	32	110	120	17	73	42	185	13	24	1067

2015 - 2016

	ALC	ASSAULT	BEHAV	BULLY	DRUGS	FIGHT	LANG	SMOKE	THEFT	TRUANT	VANDAL	WEAPON	TOTAL
Female	37	7	72	23	64	16	5	28	3	66	9	0	330
Male	12	37	287	64	81	131	10	72	13	69	13	14	803
	49	44	359	87	145	147	15	100	16	135	22	14	1133

2014 - 2015

	ALC	ASSAULT	BEHAV	BULLY	DRUGS	FIGHT	LANG	SMOKE	THEFT	TRUANT	VANDAL	WEAPON	TOTAL
Female	13	7	48	7	56	10	1	3	11	65	2	3	226
Male	13	39	280	27	116	104	10	43	16	95	18	13	774
	26	46	328	34	172	114	11	46	27	160	20	16	1000

2013 - 2014

	ALC	ASSAULT	BEHAV	BULLY	DRUGS	FIGHT	LANG	SMOKE	THEFT	TRUANT	VANDAL	WEAPON	TOTAL
Female	19	9	72	22	58	7	2	2	9	95	4	5	304
Male	13	59	245	22	160	84	12	15	33	134	10	15	802
	32	68	317	44	218	91	14	17	42	229	14	20	1106

TABLE 7 - DEFINITE SUSPENSIONS BY GENDER AND GRADE

2018-2019

	K	gr1	gr2	gr3	gr4	gr5	gr6	gr7	gr8	gr9	gr10	gr11	gr12	SU	TOTAL
Female	1	2	0	1	2	7	13	39	139	49	52	30	13	0	348
Male	3	7	8	19	26	38	73	118	159	196	67	68	31	0	813
	4	9	8	20	28	45	86	157	298	245	119	98	44	0	1161

2017-2018

	K	gr1	gr2	gr3	gr4	gr5	gr6	gr7	gr8	gr9	gr10	gr11	gr12	SU	TOTAL
Female	0	1	2	5	6	2	4	66	63	96	54	66	25	0	390
Male	2	8	5	18	38	46	60	80	184	149	151	99	57	0	897
	2	9	7	23	44	48	64	146	247	245	205	165	82	0	1287

2016 - 2017

	K	gr1	gr2	gr3	gr4	gr5	gr6	gr7	gr8	gr9	gr10	gr11	gr12	SU	TOTAL
Female	0	1	6	2	1	2	11	23	75	41	62	33	25	0	282
Male	2	4	9	12	25	31	37	127	122	118	145	94	59	0	785
	2	5	15	14	26	33	48	150	197	159	207	127	84	0	1067

2015 - 2016

	K	gr1	gr2	gr3	gr4	gr5	gr6	gr7	gr8	gr9	gr10	gr11	gr12	SU	TOTAL
Female	1	1	1	4	2	4	1	19	77	93	53	45	29	0	330
Male	4	9	13	14	26	27	33	84	139	167	125	97	65	0	803
	5	10	14	18	28	31	34	103	216	260	178	142	94	0	1133

2014 - 2015

	K	gr1	gr2	gr3	gr4	gr5	gr6	gr7	gr8	gr9	gr10	gr11	gr12	SU	TOTAL
Female	1	1	0	1	7	3	1	11	55	41	44	39	22	0	226
Male	5	5	12	10	34	35	44	54	131	163	96	116	69	0	774
	6	6	12	11	41	38	45	65	186	204	140	155	91	0	1000

2013 - 2014

	K	gr1	gr2	gr3	gr4	gr5	gr6	gr7	gr8	gr9	gr10	gr11	gr12	SU	TOTAL
Female	0	3	2	1	2	6	4	33	49	52	84	37	31	0	304
Male	0	6	9	12	22	38	37	66	117	146	155	109	85	0	802
	0	9	11	13	24	44	41	99	166	198	239	146	116	0	1106

TABLE 8 – ACTUAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS SUSPENDED

INDEFINITE SUSPENSION

	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19
Actual Female:	1	0	2	0	1	0
Actual Male:	14	3	9	1	10	3
Actual Students:	15	3	11	1	11	3
Total Suspensions:	15	3	11	1	11	3

DEFINITE SUSPENSION

	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19
Actual Female:	216	168	223	199	240	238
Actual Male:	546	543	539	507	586	574
Actual Students:	762	711	762	706	826	812
Total Suspensions:	1106	1000	1133	1067	1287	1161

TABLE 9 – SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS YEARS SUSPENSIONS

	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19
Indefinite Susp.	15	3	11	1	11	3
Definite Susp.	1106	1000	1133	1067	1287	1161

TABLE 10 – SUSPENSION SUMMARY BY SCHOOL
INDEFINITE SUSPENSIONS

MIDDLE/SECONDARY	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19
Constable Neil Bruce Middle	1	0	1	0	2	0
École Dr. Knox Middle	0	0	1	0	0	0
George Elliot Secondary	1	0	1	0	0	0
École Glenrosa Middle	0	0	0	0	0	0
École Kelowna Secondary	2	0	1	0	3	1
École K.L.O. Middle	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mount Boucherie Secondary	6	2	6	1	2	2
OKM Secondary	2	0	0	0	0	0
Rutland Middle	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rutland Senior	2	1	1	0	4	0
Springvalley Middle	1	0	0	0	0	0
Total Middle/Secondary:	15	3	11	1	11	3
ELEMENTARY						
A.S. Matheson						
Anne McClymont						
Bankhead						
École Belgo						
Black Mountain						
École Casorso						
Chief Tomat						
Chute Lake						
Davidson Road						
École Dorothea Walker						
Ellison						
École George Pringle						
École Glenmore						
Glenrosa						
Helen Gorman						
Hudson Road						
Mar Jok						
North Glenmore						
Oyama						
Peachland						
Pearson						
École Peter Greer						
Quigley						
Raymer						
Rose Valley						
Rutland Elem.						
Shannon Lake						
South Kelowna						
South Rutland						
Springvalley Elem.						
Watson Road						
Total Elementary:	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Middle/Secondary:	15	3	11	1	11	3
TOTAL INDEFINITES:	15	3	11	1	11	3

TABLE 10 – SUSPENSION SUMMARY BY SCHOOL - continued
DEFINITE SUSPENSIONS

MIDDLE/SECONDARY	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19
Constable Neil Bruce Middle	109	65	87	138	143	82
École Dr. Knox Middle	32	74	107	59	86	95
George Elliot Secondary	69	102	74	67	70	62
École Glenrosa Middle	74	51	97	81	127	217
École Kelowna Secondary	151	134	122	140	194	73
École K.L.O. Middle	47	42	82	99	90	101
Mount Boucherie Secondary	112	64	177	172	153	103
OKM Secondary	57	48	80	53	41	107
Rutland Middle	69	79	69	37	47	45
Rutland Senior	137	105	55	50	91	63
Springvalley Middle	85	58	58	35	59	50
Central School / Distributed Learning	11	19	0	12	15	21
Total Middle/Secondary:	953	841	1008	943	1116	1019
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS						
Anne McClymont	12	8	3	1	0	1
A. S. Matheson	10	0	1	0	2	0
Bankhead	5	0	2	1	0	1
École Belgo	4	1	1	0	23	4
Black Mountain	0	6	1	0	0	0
École Casorso	3	13	2	10	2	0
Chief Tomat	4	2	3	8	5	6
Chute Lake	1	0	3	2	0	5
Davidson	1	4	1	2	4	15
École Dorothea Walker	0	0	2	1	0	2
Ellison	0	3	3	0	8	0
École George Pringle Elem.	14	21	4	7	11	13
École Glenmore	11	12	16	0	0	2
Glenrosa	0	0	0	0	0	3
Helen Gorman	4	1	5	0	0	2
Hudson Road	4	7	0	1	0	0
Mar Jok	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0
North Glenmore	4	6	0	6	4	3
Oyama	1	3	2	8	1	0
Peachland	1	4	0	1	2	7
Pearson	2	20	26	14	12	4
École Peter Greer	10	4	4	6	5	14
Quigley	5	3	20	8	61	30
Raymer	1	3	10	17	2	3
Rose Valley	11	5	5	3	1	2
Rutland Elem.	12	15	7	19	22	16
Shannon Lake	0	2	0	1	1	0
South Kelowna	1	1	3	4	0	3
South Rutland	5	8	0	2	1	0
Springvalley El.	27	5	1	1	2	4
Watson Road	0	2	0	1	2	2
Total Elementary Schools:	153	159	125	124	171	142
Total Middle/Secondary:	953	841	1008	943	1116	1019
TOTAL DEFINITES:	1106	1000	1133	1067	1287	1161

APPENDIX C

Indefinite and Definite Suspensions DATA ANALYSIS 2018-2019

Profiles (Indefinite Suspensions)

The characteristic profile of the indefinitely suspended student has not changed significantly over the past number of school years. This last school year the numbers of indefinite suspensions declined. As seen from the data in Table #1, the number of indefinite suspensions continues to be relatively low. This is clearly evident when comparing the data collected for the 2018-2019 school year to the data collected from the years 2001-2002 to 2010-2011 (see Table #1). As noted, the overall number of indefinite suspensions decreased for the 2018-2019 school year (i.e. from 11 in 2017-2018 to 3 in 2018-2019). This continues to be the result of increased vigilance by school-based administrators and improved interventions and support opportunities provided to students who may be at risk for an indefinite suspension. This is particularly true in the area of behaviour related issues. The low numbers of indefinite suspensions in 2018-2019 are not anomalous, but continue the trend of 11 or fewer indefinite suspensions per year for the last five school years. This is far fewer than numbers reported in 2009-2010 (i.e. 36) and significantly fewer than in the 2001-2002 school year when 90 indefinite suspension hearings were held.

More proactive options and intervention supports for students at risk of being suspended were again available this last school year. These options include the Directed Suspension program as well as additional counseling intervention structures (such as the Alternative Intervention for Marijuana Suspension (AIMS) program and individual drug and alcohol counseling) organized through Central School Programs and Services and Student Support Services. In addition, the Interior Health Authority provides funding for a drug education and prevention worker (subcontracted through ARC Programs) which has resulted in an increased level of awareness and knowledge regarding supports for students in the School District and community. The continued support of the District Child and Youth Mental Health Clinicians remains a valuable support for Secondary schools, Middle schools, Elementary schools and Central School Programs and Services in Central Okanagan Public Schools.

In a number of cases, students who may have faced an indefinite suspension receive a definite suspension and a required counseling intervention program (such as; drug and alcohol, anger management or mental health support) as well as potentially some community service instead. This would be organized and arranged through the administration at Central School Programs and Services or their home school administration. These cases result from agreements being reached between the Director of Instruction-Student Support Services, school administrators, the parents of the suspended students and the students.

In the 2018-2019 school year, the number of indefinite suspensions for males was 3; and there were no female indefinite suspensions. (Given the data for 2018-2019 a ratio is not reported.) The reduction in the number of indefinitely suspended students from 2017-2018 to 2018-2019 can be accounted for by the decrease in suspensions for male students at the Grades 8, 9 and 10 levels (i.e., In 2017-2018 there were 10 male students indefinitely suspended while in 2018-2019 there were 3 at the grade 11 and 12 levels). There was 1 female student indefinitely suspended in 2017-2018 while in the 2018-2019 school year there were no indefinite suspensions for females. In fact, the current indefinite suspension numbers are much smaller than the numbers were 12-15 years ago. (The numbers were as high as 90 to well over 100 a year. That data is still available on file.)

Male students who were indefinitely suspended were at the grade 11 and 12 levels. All categories of suspensions of males showed a decrease over the proceeding school years with the exception of the category of "drug" related indefinite suspensions. The increase overall in area of "drug" related indefinite suspensions is minimal going from 2 in 2017-2018 to 3 in 2018-2019. These 3 indefinite suspensions accounted for all of the indefinite suspensions for 2018-2019. The overall decrease in male indefinite

suspensions again is likely the result of the impact of administrator and staff vigilance and supportive interventions.

Indefinite suspensions for male students were most common in the following category:

- Drug related issues (100%) - 3 of the 3 indefinite suspensions

Overall, the number of males indefinitely suspended decreased by 12 between the 2013-2014 and 2018-2019 school years.

There was a decrease in female suspensions (i.e., from 1 to 0). The decrease noted by suspension category was for “drugs” (from 1 to 0). Logically, there were no category areas with an increase in numbers for females. Even though the number of incidents for females remains relatively negligible, continued monitoring of any changes remains essential.

It should also be noted that indefinite suspensions for drug related issues have remained low again this last school year. It is believed that this pattern of reduced numbers of indefinite suspensions for “Drugs” reflects the collaborative efforts of the Central Okanagan Public Schools staff in conjunction with the RCMP and agencies such as ARC programs utilizing such initiatives as the Directed Suspension program, the AIMS program and school-based RCMP School Resource Officers. Thanks must be expressed to staff, ARC Programs, Child and Youth Mental Health and the RCMP for their continued support.

Overall, the data on indefinite suspensions continues to be reflective of the general trend of fewer than 16 per year that has been noted since 2012-2013. It continues to be encouraging to see that the number of indefinite suspensions is significantly below the levels apparent in the 1990s. Consistent efforts to provide appropriate proactive interventions and services by staff, RCMP School Resource Officers, other Ministries’ staff and community agencies’ staff, should result in the trend of lower numbers of indefinite suspensions being evident again in 2019-2020.

Profiles (Definite Suspensions)

In general, there was a notable decrease in the number of definite suspensions issued during the 2018-2019 school year over the previous year. In fact, the total is 126 less than the 2017-2018 school year. This is a significant decrease and even more significant when comparing the number of definite suspensions in the 2006-2007 school year to the 2018-2019 school year (1774 in 2006-2007 as compared to 1161 in 2018-2019). That comparative overall reduction is consistent for both the number of definite suspensions for males and the numbers for females. Definite suspensions for males decreased by 84 from 2017-2018 to 2018-2019 (i.e., from 897 to 813), while definite suspensions involving females decreased from 390 to 348. The number of definite suspensions for males remains lower than the numbers from the school years 2010-2011 and prior. The trend of numbers of definite suspensions experienced for females continued this past year to remain at less than 400, a pattern seen since 2010-2011.

Upon closer examination of the data, it is evident that this last school year’s decreased number of definite suspensions requires some interpretation of the category numbers. This interpretation is included below.

Overall, the largest decreases in definite suspensions were seen for the following categories:

- General behaviour (from 390 to 348)
- Truancy (from 231 to 108)
- Bullying (from 92 to 45)

The largest increase was seen for:

- Smoking/Vaping (from 92 to 189)

Males were most commonly definitely suspended for:

- General behaviour (34.1%)
- Fighting (20.1%)
- Smoking/Vaping (12.4%)

Males definitely suspended were most commonly in grades 6 through 11 with 83.8% of all such suspensions coming from these grades.

Females were most commonly definitely suspended for:

- Smoking/Vaping (25.3%)
- General behaviour (20.4%)
- Truancy (16.7%)
- Drugs (16.1%)

This pattern is consistent with the 2017-2018 data as well as a number of years prior to that year. Females definitely suspended were most commonly in grades 8, 9 and 10 with 69% of all such suspensions coming from these grades.

SUMMARY

It is apparent that the trend of low numbers of indefinite suspensions from 2013-2014 to 2018-2019 is continuing the pattern of fewer suspensions than 10 years ago. In fact, the 3 indefinite suspensions recorded last school year are among the lowest number on record. This is an encouraging indicator of the continued positive and proactive approaches in dealing with students who present with challenging behaviours and the relative appropriateness of interventions that have been developed and implemented for students over the past number of years. Despite some minor fluctuation in the number of indefinite suspensions over the past 6 years, the indefinite suspension rates are well below their historic high of 139 in the 1995-1996 school year.

While the decrease in the definite suspension category is positive and promising, it needs to be monitored. Of note is the increase in the number of students, as young as grade 6, who are engaging in the use of vapes. The use of vapes has increased significantly in school age students across North America and is of concern to both the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health. Initiatives from both Ministries are in development and some in initial stages of implementation. District staff will continue to work with staff from both Ministries to educate students about the risks involved with vaping and to employ intervention programs as they are made available to school districts in the province.

Overall, it is encouraging to see the pattern of decline in both indefinite and definite suspensions continue again this last year. It is believed that proactive initiatives in the District are having the desired impact of continuing to reduce these suspension totals. The reduction can be attributed in part to the emphasis by a number of schools on utilizing the Positive Behaviour Intervention Support program, school-based Mental Health Clinicians, ARC workers supporting students in elementary schools, Drug and Alcohol intervention programs, school-based counselors and behavior staff and District Behaviour Specialists. An increase in behaviour intervention training and in-service for staff at all levels also contributed to the reduction. These programs have all had a positive effect on behaviour in schools in the District. Despite the reassuring reductions in numbers of suspensions, it is essential that active monitoring of student behaviour by school staffs continue and that school codes of conduct to be vigorously and appropriately enforced. It is also important and appropriate to commend the RCMP, MCFD, IHA, and ARC Programs for their ongoing commitment to support students in Central Okanagan Public Schools.