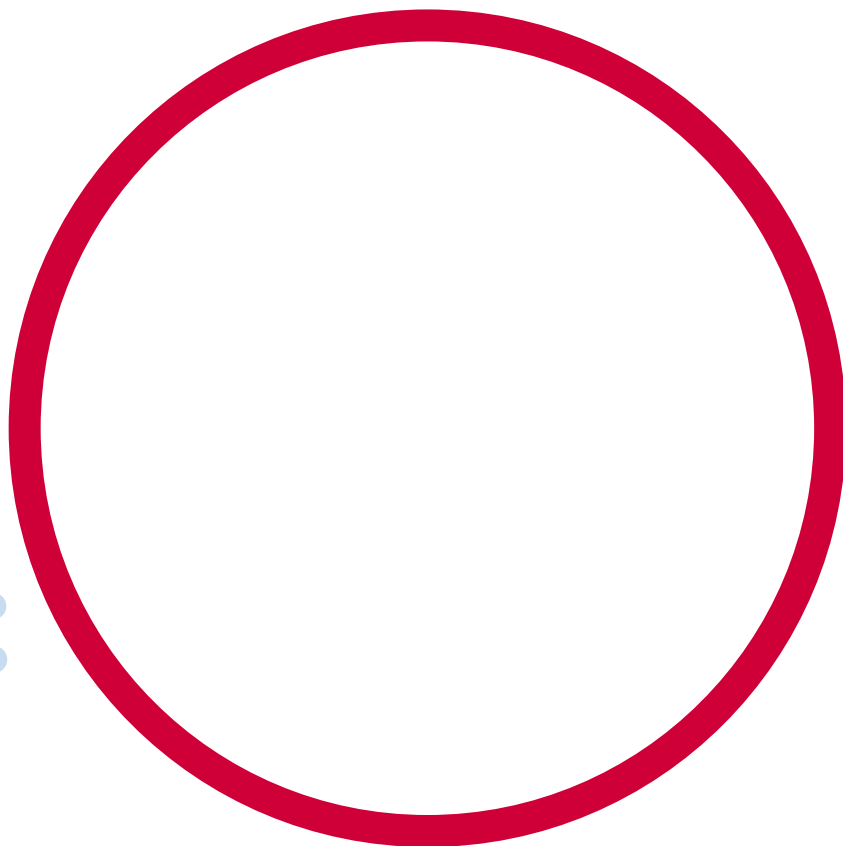
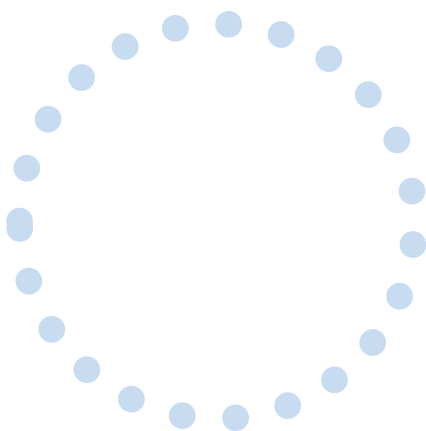
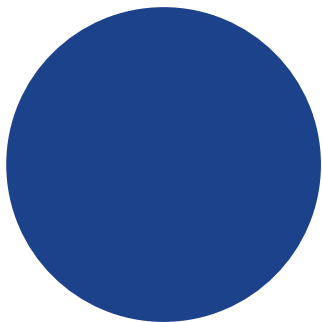


# Suspensions and Expulsions 2020



# Enrolments, 2020

In 2020 there were 810,705 students enrolled in NSW government schools.

**Table 1: Enrolments in mid-year census**

Year	Boys	Girls	All students
K-2	111,872	103,154	215,026
3-6	144,216	135,467	279,683
7-10	119,435	109,945	229,380
11-12	42,438	44,178	86,616
All	417,961	392,744	810,705

# Short suspensions, 2020

Short suspensions are up to 4 school days. There were 47,277 short suspensions in 2020. Of these:

- 29,818 were for continued disobedience
- 17,459 were for aggressive behaviour.

**Note:** These figures are based on the total number of short suspensions in 2020 and include students placed on short suspension on more than one occasion.

A total of 30,634 students were short suspended. The average length of short suspensions was 3.0 days.

**Table 2: Students receiving short suspensions**

Year	Boys	Girls	All students	% student enrolment
K-2	1,657	245	1,902	0.9%
3-6	5,027	932	5,959	2.1%
7-10	14,332	6,157	20,489	8.9%
11-12	1,709	577	2,286	2.6%
All	22,723	7,911	30,634	3.8%

# Long suspensions, 2020

Long suspensions are up to 20 school days.

There were 16,327 long suspensions in 2020. Of these:

- 6,243 were for persistent misbehaviour;
- 7,247 were for physical violence;
- 981 were for serious criminal behaviour related to the school;
- 1,032 were for possession or use of a suspected illegal substance;
- 619 were for use or possession of a prohibited weapon, firearm or knife; and,
- 205 were for use of an implement as a weapon, or threatening to use a weapon.

**Note:** These figures are based on the total number of long suspensions in 2020 and include students placed on long suspension on more than one occasion.

A total of 12,219 students were long suspended.

The average length of long suspensions was 12.6 days.

**Table 3: Students receiving long suspensions**

Year	Boys	Girls	All students	% student enrolment
K-2	340	44	384	0.2%
3-6	1,421	225	1,646	0.6%
7-10	6,334	2,746	9,080	4.0%
11-12	855	256	1,111	1.3%
All	8,949	3,270	12,219	1.5%

**Note:** Support students at mainstream schools are now reported by their underlying grade of enrolment, whereas in previous factsheets all support students were classified as ungraded and included with Years 3-6 and Years 7-10 enrolments. This results in small changes to the suspension rate particularly for secondary students.

# Aboriginal students by suspension type and education level, 2020

Aboriginal students account for approximately 8% of all government school student enrolments.

In 2020 there were a total of 66,889 Aboriginal enrolments in NSW government schools. 7,710 Aboriginal students, or 11.5% of total Aboriginal enrolments, received a short suspension, while 3,552 Aboriginal students received a long suspension or 5.3%.

**Table 4: Aboriginal students receiving short suspensions**

Year	Aboriginal enrolments	# Aboriginal students short suspended	% Aboriginal students short suspended
K-2	17,910	583	3.3%
3-6	22,547	1,937	8.6%
7-10	21,144	4,796	22.7%
11-12	5,288	395	7.5%
All	66,889	7,710	11.5%

**Table 5: Aboriginal students receiving long suspensions**

Year	Aboriginal enrolments	# Aboriginal students long suspended	% Aboriginal students long suspended
K-2	17,910	132	0.7%
3-6	22,547	595	2.6%
7-10	21,144	2,616	12.4%
11-12	5,288	210	4.0%
All	66,889	3,552	5.3%

# Data by SA4 groups, 2020

The NSW Department of Education uses the ABS Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) to report data by geographical area. ASGS Statistical Area 4 (SA4) boundaries in NSW are combined into 11 groups for reporting.

**Map 1: SA4 groups map**



**Note:** In Suspension factsheets from 2013 until 2018, data was published by Family and Community Services districts to assist evidence informed planning and practice across NSW Government agencies. Prior to 2013, suspension and expulsion data was published by region and school education group.

**Table 6: Short suspensions by SA4 group, 2020**

SA4 Group	Total short suspensions	Total number of students short suspended <sup>2</sup>	Students short suspended as % of SA4 group enrolment
Sydney-North	983	804	0.9%
Sydney-Inner	1,608	1,150	2.0%
Sydney-South	3,313	2,324	3.0%
Sydney-South West	5,329	3,706	4.1%
Sydney-West	4,149	2,768	3.0%
Sydney-North West	2,460	1,707	2.5%
North East NSW	5,802	3,637	5.8%
North West NSW	7,829	4,711	7.2%
South West NSW	4,588	2,840	5.4%
South East NSW	5,736	3,550	4.9%
Central Coast, Newcastle	5,480	3,550	4.4%
<b>Grand total <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>47,277</b>	<b>30,634</b>	<b>3.8%</b>

**Notes:**

1. Students who were suspended in more than one school from different SA4 group are counted once in the grand total. Therefore the grand total may not match the total of the columns above it.
2. Includes students on suspension on more than one occasion.

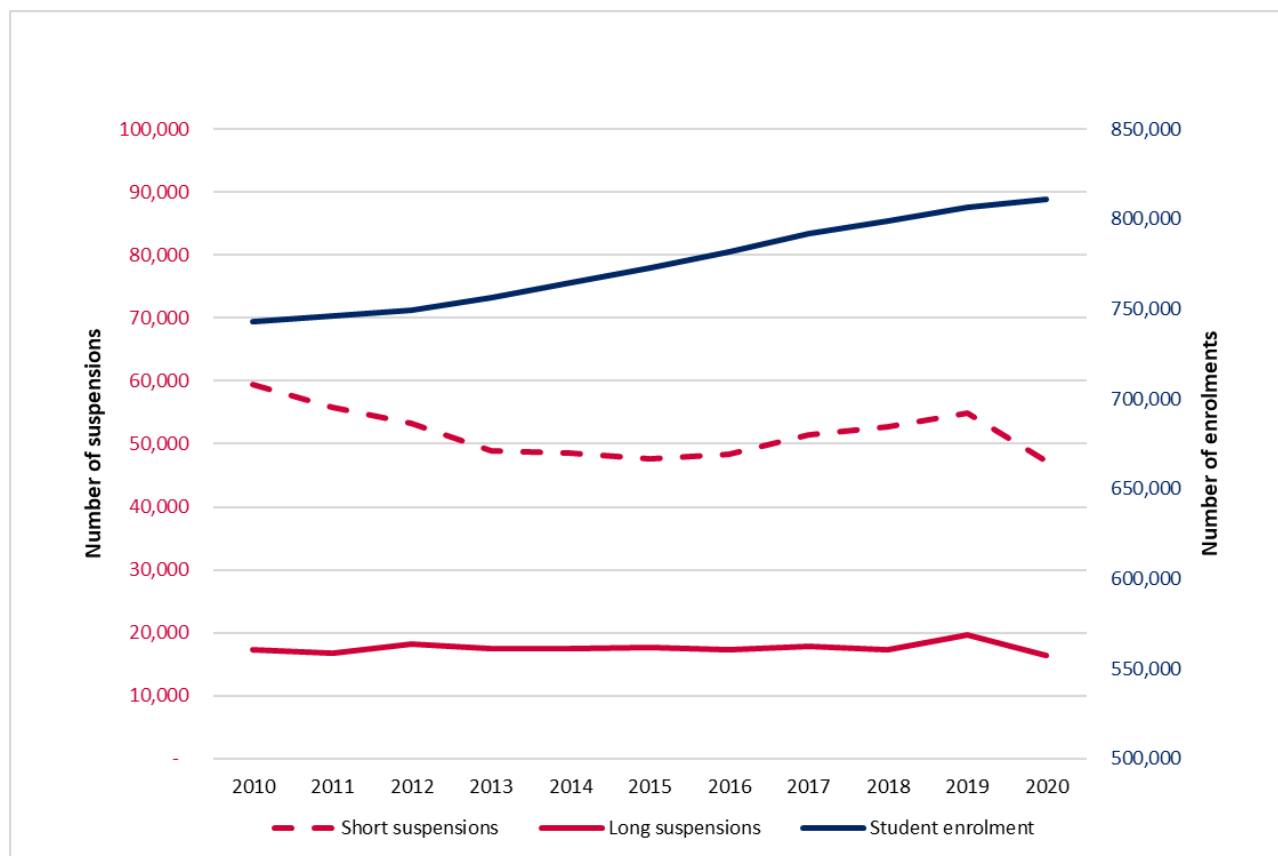
**Table 7: Long suspensions by SA4 group, 2020**

SA4 Group	Total long suspensions	Total number of students long suspended <sup>2</sup>	Students long suspended as % of SA4 group enrolment
Sydney-North	399	333	0.4%
Sydney-Inner	586	459	0.8%
Sydney-South	993	768	1.0%
Sydney-South West	2,032	1,480	1.6%
Sydney-West	1,147	900	1.0%
Sydney-North West	937	750	1.1%
North East NSW	2,144	1,591	2.6%
North West NSW	2,757	1,972	3.0%
South West NSW	1,599	1,162	2.2%
South East NSW	1,669	1,257	1.7%
Central Coast, Newcastle	2,064	1,583	2.0%
<b>Grand total <sup>1</sup></b>	<b>16,327</b>	<b>12,219</b>	<b>1.5%</b>

**Notes:**

1. Students who were suspended in more than one school from different SA4 group are counted once in the grand total. Therefore the grand total may not match the total of the columns above it.
2. Includes students on suspension on more than one occasion.

**Figure 1: Suspensions and enrolments at NSW government schools 2010-2020**



**Notes:**

1. Between 2009 and 2014 there were changes in the way that suspension data was collected. In 2012 suspension data was harvested from a combination of the Department’s electronic enrolment registration system (ERN) and manual returns. The data prior to 2012 was collected manually.
2. Since 2013, data has been harvested from ERN or the Department’s student administration system SALM/ebs: central, making it more reliable.
3. In 2019 resources were available to conduct quality checks prior to the collection opening as well as the usual post-collection checks. This resulted in more complete data, giving the appearance of an increase in suspensions for some grades.
4. NSW suspension data in 2020 is not comparable to previous years due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The NSW Government encouraged students to learn from home, where possible, for a seven week period from 24 March to 22 May.
5. Both vertical axes have different scales. This should be considered when interpreting the graph.



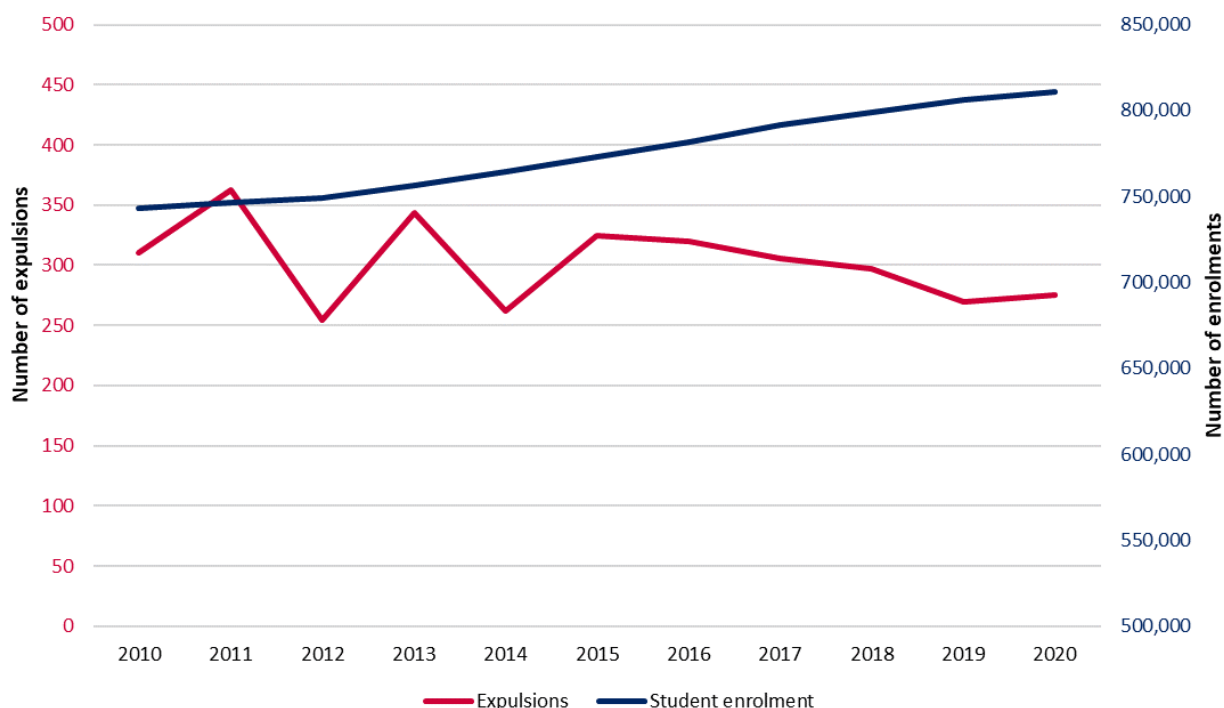
**Table 8: Expulsions by SA4 Groups, 2020**

SA4 Groups	Misbehaviour	Unsatisfactory participation	Total
Sydney-North	<5	<5	n/a
Sydney-Inner	6	10	16
Sydney-South	<5	11	n/a
Sydney-South West	19	49	68
Sydney-West	9	<5	n/a
Sydney-North West	9	<5	n/a
North East NSW	26	13	39
North West NSW	14	<5	n/a
South West NSW	<5	7	n/a
South East NSW	37	<5	n/a
Central Coast, Newcastle	36	<5	n/a
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>275</b>

**Notes:**

1. In order to protect individual students' identities, in this table, values 5 and under are represented as <5 and n/a is used in the "Total" column.
2. The figures provided are a count of students who received an expulsion. If a student received more than one expulsion, they are only counted once.

**Figure 2: Expulsions and enrolments at NSW government schools 2010-2020**



**Notes:**

1. In 2010 the school leaving age was raised from 15 years to 17 years.
2. Between 2009 and 2013 there were changes in the way that expulsion data was collected. From 2012 expulsions were recorded in the Department’s Enrolment Registration (ERN) system. Prior to this, expulsions data was recorded on a manual return. This has potentially impacted consistency across longitudinal data.
3. Since 2013, data has been harvested from ERN, making it more reliable.
4. Both vertical axes have different scales. This should be considered when interpreting the graph.