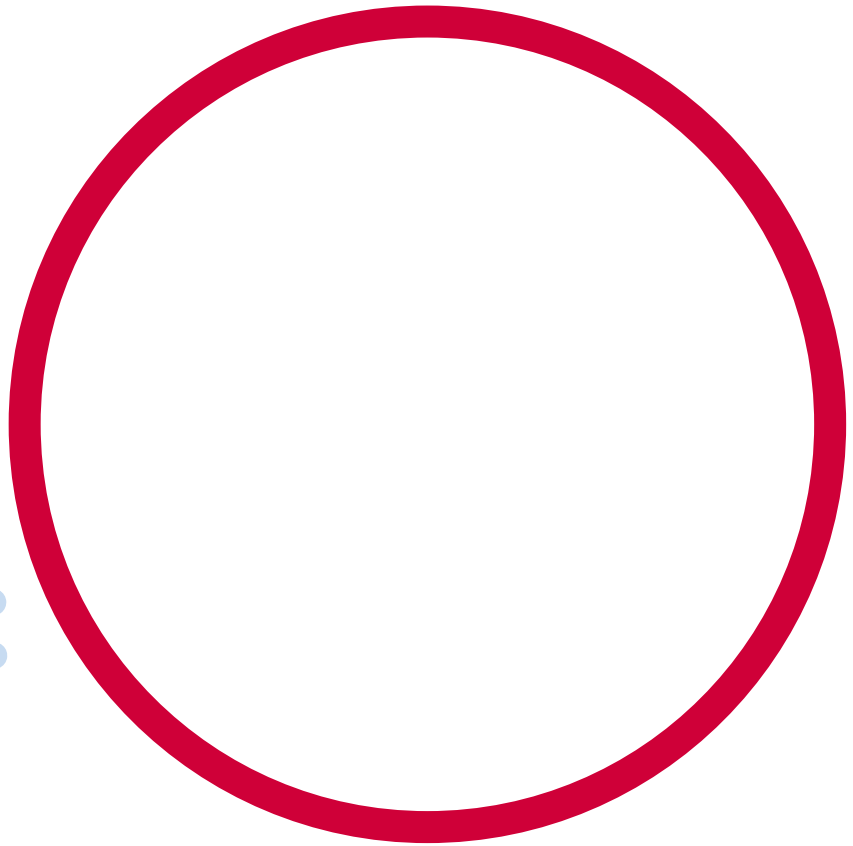
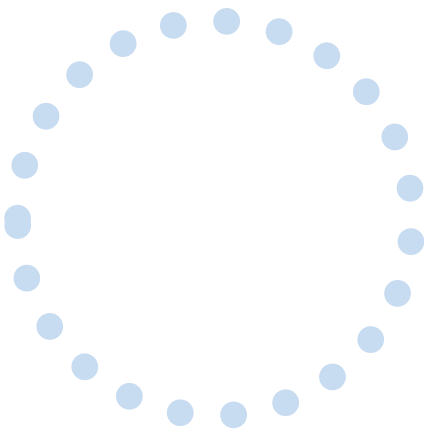
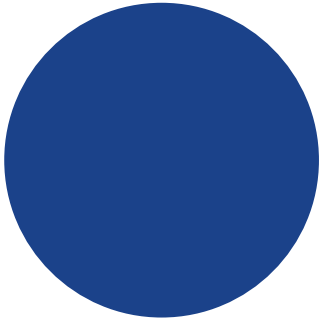


Suspensions and Expulsions Semester 1 2018-2022



Introduction

The suspension and expulsion of NSW government students is an area of increased public interest. Prior to 2021, factsheets provided full year suspension and expulsion data. Changes to the data collection and validation process in 2021 allowed for publication of Semester 1 data. As a result, 2021 was the first year where a Semester 1 factsheet was produced in addition to the full year factsheet. In order to contextualise the 2022 Semester 1 data, suspension and expulsion data for the last five years has been provided.

Please note that no comparisons or calculations can be made using Semester 1 against full year data reported in previous factsheets, as students suspended in both semesters are counted once in the full year publication.

Semester 1 Suspensions, 2018-2022

2.9% of students in NSW public schools were suspended at least once in Semester 1 2022. This is a decrease from rates in 2019 and 2021 (3.3% for both years). 2020 Semester 1 suspension data is not comparable due to the effects of COVID-19 lockdown period.

(Note 1).

Table 1a: Students receiving suspensions – Semester 1 2018-2022

All students	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of short suspensions	28,839	31,013	21,209	30,618	25,314
Number of long suspensions	8,811	10,454	7,313	10,030	8,159
Total suspensions	37,650	41,467	28,522	40,648	33,473
Students short suspended (#)	20,627	22,287	16,444	22,267	18,749
Students long suspended (#)	7,183	8,423	6,248	8,152	6,811
All students suspended	24,343	26,685	20,315	26,686	22,599
Students short suspended (%)	2.6%	2.8%	2.0%	2.8%	2.4%
Students long suspended (%)	0.9%	1.0%	0.8%	1.0%	0.9%
All students suspended (%)	3.0%	3.3%	2.5%	3.3%	2.9%

(Notes 1-3)

In Semester 1 2022, around one in a hundred primary school students were suspended, with 5,222 short suspensions and 983 long suspensions issued. This is the lowest suspension rate in Semester 1 in recent years.

While there were no COVID-19 lockdowns or learning from home periods in Semester 1, 2022, the prevalence of COVID-19 in the community was much greater than in 2021 and continued to cause large variability in attendance, which may have a flow-on effect with suspensions. Furthermore, the number of days for schools that were non-operational due to floods in Semester 1 2022 and influenza cases may have also contributed to the decline in attendance and hence suspensions.

Table 1b: Primary students receiving suspensions – Semester 1 2018-2022

Primary students	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of short suspensions	8,519	9,064	5,767	7,123	5,222
Number of long suspensions	1,773	1,977	1,190	1,334	983
Total suspensions	10,292	11,041	6,957	8,457	6,205
Students short suspended (#)	5,639	5,970	4,247	4,830	3,718
Students long suspended (#)	1,405	1,525	966	1,054	806
All students suspended	6,253	6,591	4,757	5,327	4,122
Students short suspended (%)	1.1%	1.2%	0.9%	1.0%	0.8%
Students long suspended (%)	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%	0.2%	0.2%
All students suspended (%)	1.3%	1.3%	1.0%	1.1%	0.9%

(Notes 1-3)

There was a gradual increase in Semester 1 suspensions for secondary students from 2018 to 2021, excluding 2020 where many students learnt from home for a seven-week period.

In Semester 1 2021, both short and long suspensions for secondary students increased to the highest figure in the five-year period. Semester 1 2022 saw a decrease in both short and long suspensions, down to 5.9% of secondary students.

Table 1c: Secondary students receiving suspensions – Semester 1 2018-2022

Secondary students	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of short suspensions	20,320	21,949	15,442	23,495	20,092
Number of long suspensions	7,038	8,477	6,123	8,696	7,176
Total suspensions	27,358	30,426	21,565	32,191	27,268
Students short suspended (#)	14,988	16,318	12,197	17,437	15,031
Students long suspended (#)	5,778	6,898	5,282	7,098	6,005
All students suspended	18,090	20,095	15,558	21,359	18,477
Students short suspended (%)	4.9%	5.3%	3.9%	5.5%	4.8%
Students long suspended (%)	1.9%	2.2%	1.7%	2.3%	1.9%
All students suspended (%)	5.9%	6.5%	4.9%	6.8%	5.9%

(Notes 1-3)

Short suspensions, Semester 1 2022

Short suspensions are up to 4 school days. There were 25,314 short suspensions in Semester 1 2022. Of these:

- 15,693 (62% of short suspensions) were for aggressive behaviour
- 9,621 (38%) were for continued disobedience

Note: These figures are based on the total number of short suspensions in Semester 1 in 2022 and include students placed on short suspension on more than one occasion.

A total of 18,749 students received short suspensions in Semester 1 2022. The average length of short suspensions was 3.0 days. The average length of short suspensions for primary students was 2.5 days, and the average length for secondary students was 3.1 days.

Table 2: Students receiving short suspensions – Semester 1 2022

Year	Enrolments	Suspended boys	Suspended girls	All students suspended	% student enrolment
K-2	202,806	745	109	854	0.4%
3-6	276,470	2,470	394	2,864	1.0%
Primary total	479,276	3,215	503	3,718	0.8%
7-10	229,575	9,043	4,310	13,353	5.8%
11-12	82,584	1,176	504	1,680	2.0%
Secondary total	312,159	10,217	4,814	15,031	4.8%
All	791,435	13,432	5,317	18,749	2.4%

(Note 4)

Long suspensions, Semester 1 2022

Long suspensions are up to 20 school days. There were 8,159 long suspensions in Semester 1 2022. Of these:

- 3,680 (45% of long suspensions) were for physical violence;
- 2,924 (35%) were for persistent misbehaviour;
- 580 (7%) were for possession or use of a suspected illegal substance;
- 546 (7%) were for serious criminal behaviour related to the school;
- 325 (4.0%) were for use or possession of a prohibited weapon, firearm or knife; and,
- 104 (1%) 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 Semester 1 2022 and include students placed on long suspension on more than one occasion.

A total of 6,811 students received a long suspension in Semester 1 2022. The average length of long suspensions was 12.2 days. For primary students the average length of long suspensions was 8.8 days, and the average length for secondary students was 12.7 days.

Table 3: Students receiving long suspensions – Semester 1 2022

Year	Enrolments	Suspended boys	Suspended girls	All students suspended	% student enrolment
K-2	202,806	139	19	158	0.1%
3-6	276,470	570	78	648	0.2%
Primary total	479,276	709	97	806	0.2%
7-10	229,575	3,466	1,800	5,266	2.3%
11-12	82,584	512	227	739	0.9%
Secondary total	312,159	3,978	2,027	6,005	1.9%
All	791,435	4,687	2,124	6,811	0.9%

(Note 4)

Aboriginal students by suspension type and education level, Semester 1 2022

Aboriginal students account for approximately 9.0% of all government school student enrolments but approximately a quarter of all students suspended.

In 2022, there were a total of 70,939 Aboriginal enrolments in NSW government schools. 8.7% of all Aboriginal students were suspended at least once during COVID-19 impacts). Similarly to the decrease in all suspensions in 2022, this may be linked to the effects of COVID-19 causing larger variability in attendance in 2022, which may have resulted in a lower number of suspensions.

Table 4: Aboriginal students receiving suspensions – Semester 1 2018-2022

Aboriginal students	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of short suspensions	8,150	9,180	6,321	8,518	7,373
Number of long suspensions	2,844	3,319	2,373	3,189	2,666
Total suspensions	10,994	12,499	8,694	11,707	10,039
Students short suspended (#)	5,337	6,050	4,612	5,699	5,041
Students long suspended (#)	2,197	2,520	1,954	2,454	2,164
All students suspended	6,333	7,178	5,699	6,868	6,144
Students short suspended (%)	8.6%	9.3%	6.9%	8.3%	7.1%
Students long suspended (%)	3.5%	3.9%	2.9%	3.6%	3.1%
All students suspended (%)	10.2%	11.1%	8.5%	10.0%	8.7%

(Notes 1-3)

The average length of all suspensions for Aboriginal students was 5.6 days.

The average length of a short suspension for Aboriginal primary students was 2.6 days, whereas the average length of a short suspension for Aboriginal secondary students was 3.2 days.

Table 5: Aboriginal students receiving short suspensions – Semester 1 2022

Year	Aboriginal enrolments	# Aboriginal students short suspended	% Aboriginal students short suspended
K-2	18,563	277	1.5%
3-6	24,454	1,018	4.2%
Primary total	43,017	1,295	3.0%
7-10	22,702	3,402	15.0%
11-12	5,220	344	6.6%
Secondary total	27,922	3,746	13.4%
All	70,939	5,041	7.1%

(Note 4)

The average length of a long suspension for Aboriginal primary students was 8.5 days, whereas the average long suspension for secondary students was 13.2 days.

Table 6: Aboriginal students receiving long suspensions – Semester 1 2022

Year	Aboriginal enrolments	# Aboriginal students long suspended	% Aboriginal students long suspended
K-2	18,563	48	0.3%
3-6	24,454	239	1.0%
Primary total	43,017	287	0.7%
7-10	22,702	1,694	7.5%
11-12	5,220	183	3.5%
Secondary total	27,922	1,877	6.7%
All	70,939	2,164	3.1%

(Note 4)

Students identified as receiving adjustments due to a disability, by suspension type and education level, Semester 1 2022

In Semester 1 2022, the definition was broadened for students who were suspended and identified as receiving adjustments due to disability. Suspensions issued to students identified as receiving an adjustment due to disability are included in this publication if they are eligible for inclusion in the NCCD (see note 5) including: a) students who are not reported to the Australian Government, and b) students who were identified as receiving adjustments due to disability at one school but were suspended at a different school.

Factsheets published prior to 2021 used the tightened definition of students who were suspended and identified as receiving adjustments due to disability. This only included: a) students reported to the Australian Government in the NCCD, and b) students suspended in the school that identified them as receiving adjustments due to the disability in the same calendar year as the suspension. Therefore, figures in the Semester 1 2022 factsheet will differ from factsheets published prior to 2021.

In 2022, there were 791,435 enrolments in NSW government schools. 141,230 enrolments (approximately 18%) were students identified as receiving adjustments due to a disability.

Of these, 7.7% received one or more suspensions in Semester 1 2022 (6.5% received a short suspension, while 2.5% received a long suspension).

Table 7: Students identified as receiving adjustments due to a disability who were suspended – Semester 1 2018-2022

All students with disability	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of short suspensions	15,546	16,490	11,407	16,120	13,496
Number of long suspensions	4,954	5,740	3,859	5,372	4,487
Total suspensions	20,500	22,230	15,266	21,492	17,983
Students short suspended (#)	9,984	10,751	8,204	10,681	9,196
Students long suspended (#)	3,838	4,384	3,176	4,141	3,579
All students suspended	11,610	12,605	9,899	12,573	10,931
Students short suspended (%)	7.8%	8.3%	6.1%	7.4%	6.5%
Students long suspended (%)	3.0%	3.4%	2.3%	2.9%	2.5%
All students suspended (%)	9.1%	9.8%	7.3%	8.7%	7.7%

(Notes 1-3, 5)

The average length of all suspensions for students identified as receiving adjustments due to a disability was 5.3 days.

The average length of a short suspension for primary students identified as receiving adjustments due to a disability was 2.6 days, whereas the average short suspension for secondary students was 3.2 days.

Table 8: Short suspensions for students identified as receiving adjustments due to a disability – Semester 1 2022

Year	Enrolments of students with disability	# Students with disability short suspended	% Students with disability short suspended
K-2	35,471	687	1.9%
3-6	49,487	2,043	4.1%
Primary total	84,958	2,730	3.2%
7-10	42,894	5,967	13.9%
11-12	13,378	499	3.7%
Secondary total	56,272	6,466	11.5%
All	141,230	9,196	6.5%

(Notes 1-3, 5)

The average length of a long suspension for primary students identified as receiving adjustments due to a disability was 9.2 days, whereas the average for secondary students was 12.9 days.

Table 9: Long suspensions for students identified as receiving adjustments due to a disability – Semester 1 2022

Year	Enrolments of students with disability	# Students with disability long suspended	% Students with disability long suspended
K-2	35,471	133	0.4%
3-6	49,487	520	1.1%
Primary total	84,958	653	0.8%
7-10	42,894	2,684	6.3%
11-12	13,378	242	1.8%
Secondary total	56,272	2,926	5.2%
All	141,230	3,579	2.5%

(Notes 1-3, 5)

Data by SA4 groups, Semester 1 2022

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



Sydney-North was the only area of NSW where less than one percent of students were suspended in Semester 1 2022. Students in North West NSW were most likely to receive a suspension, with 4.9% of students receiving a short suspension and 2.1% receiving a long suspension.

Table 10: Short suspensions by SA4 group – Semester 1 2022

SA4 Group	Total short suspensions	Total number of students short suspended	Students short suspended as % of SA4 group enrolment
Sydney-North	411	357	0.4%
Sydney-Inner	806	646	1.2%
Sydney-South	1,589	1,289	1.7%
Sydney-South West	2,721	2,151	2.4%
Sydney-West	2,198	1,663	1.8%
Sydney-North West	1,195	936	1.4%
North East NSW	3,271	2,377	4.1%
North West NSW	4,529	3,146	4.9%
South West NSW	2,313	1,633	3.2%
South East NSW	3,328	2,376	3.4%
Central Coast, Newcastle	2,953	2,197	2.8%
Grand total	25,314	18,749	2.4%

(Notes 6-7)

As with short suspensions, students in Sydney were less frequently suspended than those in other parts of the state.

Table 11: Long suspensions by SA4 group – Semester 1 2022

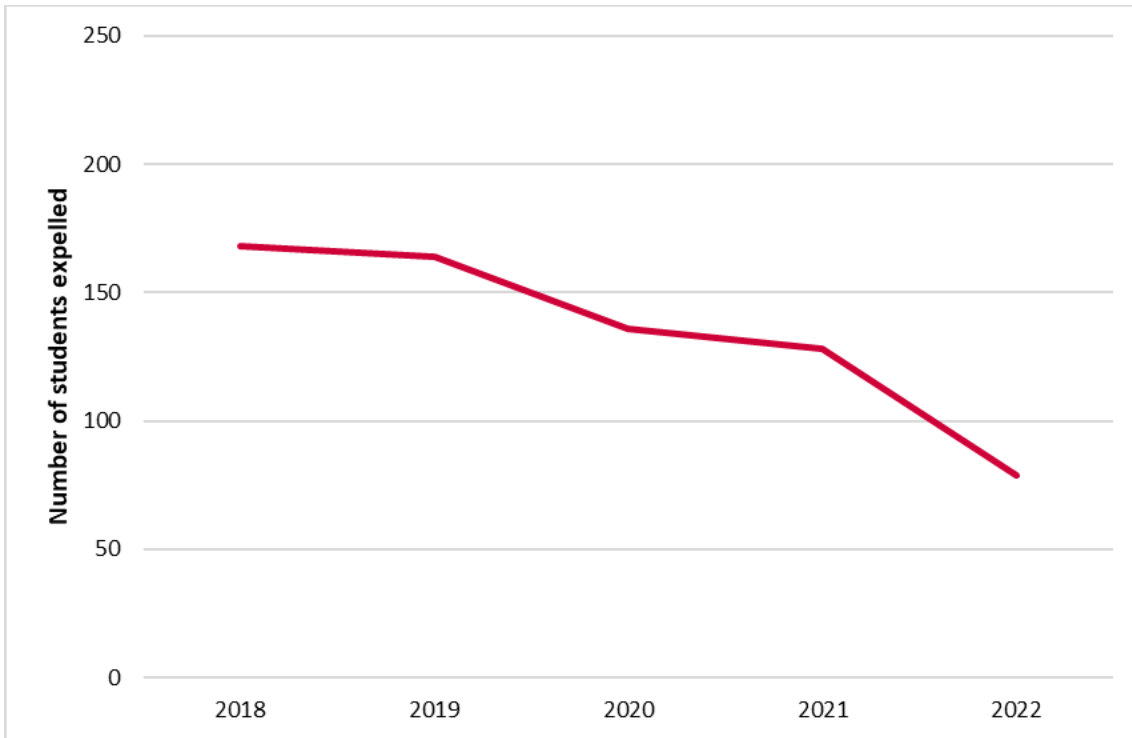
SA4 Group	Total long suspensions	Total number of students long suspended	Students long suspended as % of SA4 group enrolment
Sydney-North	131	118	0.1%
Sydney-Inner	243	203	0.4%
Sydney-South	385	326	0.4%
Sydney-South West	1,000	833	0.9%
Sydney-West	404	365	0.4%
Sydney-North West	426	383	0.6%
North East NSW	1,059	882	1.5%
North West NSW	1,684	1,360	2.1%
South West NSW	865	691	1.4%
South East NSW	925	781	1.1%
Central Coast, Newcastle	1,037	872	1.1%
Grand total	8,159	6,811	0.9%

(Notes 6-7)

Expulsions, Semester 1 2018-2022

In Semester 1 2022, there were a total of 79 students expelled from NSW government schools, 23 expulsions were for misbehaviour, and 56 were for unsatisfactory participation. Of these expulsions, no student was expelled from more than one school, a change from previous years.

Figure 1: Expulsions at NSW government schools – Semester 1 2018-2022



(Notes 1, 2)

Notes:

1. NSW suspension data in Semester 1 2020 is not comparable to previous years due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown period. The NSW Government encouraged students to learn from home, where possible, for a seven-week period from 24 March to 22 May 2020.
2. In 2019 and 2021, 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. These additional checks were not carried out in earlier years.
3. Where a student receives both a short suspension and a long suspension in Semester 1, the student is only counted once in the 'All Students suspended' data, but will appear in both the 'Students short suspended' and 'Students long suspended' data. Therefore 'All Students suspended' is not the sum of 'Students short suspended' and 'Students long suspended'.
4. 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.
5. Data for students identified as receiving adjustments due to disability is taken from the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with a Disability (NCCD) data collection, which takes place in the first week of August each year.

Data is included for students identified as requiring supplementary, substantial or extensive levels of adjustment. Students who require quality differentiated teaching practices (QDTP) are not included in the data.

The NCCD is a count of the number of students with disability receiving adjustments to access and participate in education. The NCCD draws on teachers' professional judgement to determine the level of adjustments students with disability receive, in both the classroom and whole school context, as well as the broad category of disability that relates to the adjustments. The model for the NCCD is based on mandatory obligations to students under the national Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (DDA) and Disability Standards for Education 2005.

Table headings have been shortened due to formatting constraints. References to "students with disability" should always be read as "students identified as receiving adjustments due to disability".

For more information on the NCCD, including level of adjustment descriptors and disability categories, please refer to the NCCD Portal.

6. Students who were suspended in more than one school from different SA4 groups are only counted once in the grand total. Therefore, the grand total may not match the total of individual groups.
7. Total number of students short suspended includes students who were suspended on more than one occasion.