**Minnesota Department of Human Rights**

Student Discipline Disproportionality Report

September 1, 2021

**For information regarding this report, please contact:**

Dr. Stacey Lackner, Director of Research and Evaluation, [stacey.lackner@wayzataschools.org](mailto:stacey.lackner@wayzataschools.org)

Dana Miller, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning, [dana.miller@wayzataschools.org](mailto:dana.miller@wayzataschools.org)

**INTENDED OUTCOMES/GOALS**

The goal of the Wayzata Public Schools Education Plan is to reduce the overall number and disproportionality of Out-of-School suspensions for students in grades K-12. We have been focused on reducing disproportionality between Students of Color and White students, with special emphasis on Black/African American students overall and by gender. We are also focusing on the disproportionality between special education and non-special education students.

This report is the last submission required in the July 2018 agreement between the Wayzata Public Schools and the Minnesota Department of Human Rights (MDHR).

**BASELINE DATA**

Wayzata Public Schools Education Plan (The Plan) was agreed upon in July 2018 by the district and the Minnesota Department of Human Rights (MDHR). As part of The Plan, the district established baseline data using the 2017-2018 end-of-year suspension information entered into the Discipline Incident Reporting System (DIRS). The data in Tables 1-3 represent Out-of-School Suspensions of one day or more.

Table 1: Out-of-School Suspensions (OSS) of 1 Day or More - By Race Ethnicity

2017-18 Full-Year DIRS Data

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Reason for Suspension** | **Asian** | **Black/African American** | **Hispanic/**  **Latinx** | **Multi Race** | **White** | **Total** |
| **Alcohol** | 1 | 1 | - | 2 | 3 | 7 |
| **Arson** | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 |
| **Assault** | - | 4 | - | - | 3 | 7 |
| **Bullying (all forms except cyber bullying)** | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 |
| **Computer** | - | - | - | - | 2 | 2 |
| **Controlled Substance (prescription)** | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| **Disruptive/Disorderly Conduct/Insubordination** | 2 | 18 | 3 | 5 | 22 | 50 |
| **Fighting** | 2 | 22 | 2 | 1 | 17 | 44 |
| **Harassment** | - | 3 | - | - | 2 | 5 |
| **Illegal Drugs** | 1 | 6 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 20 |
| **Other** | 1 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 10 |
| **Terroristic Threats** | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| **Theft** | - | - | - | - | 3 | 3 |
| **Threat/Intimidation** | - | 5 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 16 |
| **Tobacco** | - | 1 | 1 | - | 7 | 9 |
| **Verbal Abuse** | - | 3 | - | - | 2 | 5 |
| **Weapon** | - | 2 | - | - | 3 | 5 |
| **Total** | 7 | 71 | 11 | 17 | 82 | 188 |
| **Total WPS K-12 Enrollment as of Oct 1 2017** | 2,292 | 808 | 487 | 592 | 7,388 | 11,574 |
| **Risk Ratio (Count per 100 students)** | 0.3 | 8.8 | 2.3 | 2.9 | 1.1 | 1.6 |
| **Likelihood Comparison to White Students** | **0.3** | **8.0** | **2.1** | **2.6** | **--** | **--** |

Table 2: Out-of-School Suspensions (OSS) of 1 Day or More - By Special Education Status

2017-18 Full-Year DIRS Data

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Reason for Suspension** | **Special Ed.** | **Not Special Ed.** | **Total** |
| **Alcohol** | 1 | 6 | 7 |
| **Arson** | - | 1 | 1 |
| **Assault** | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| **Bullying (all forms except cyber bullying)** | 1 | - | 1 |
| **Computer** | - | 2 | 2 |
| **Controlled Substance (prescription)** | - | 1 | 1 |
| **Disruptive/Disorderly Conduct/Insubordination** | 24 | 26 | 50 |
| **Fighting** | 13 | 31 | 44 |
| **Harassment** | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| **Illegal Drugs** | 4 | 16 | 20 |
| **Other** | 1 | 9 | 10 |
| **Terroristic Threats** | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| **Theft** | - | 3 | 3 |
| **Threat/Intimidation** | 4 | 12 | 16 |
| **Tobacco** | 2 | 7 | 9 |
| **Verbal Abuse** | - | 5 | 5 |
| **Weapon** | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| **Total** | 60 | 128 | 188 |
| **Total WPS K-12 Enrollment as of Oct 1 2017** | 888 | 10,686 | 11,574 |
| **Risk Ratio (Count per 100 students)** | 6.8 | 1.2 | 1.6 |
| **Likelihood Comparison to Non-Special Ed Students** | **5.7** | **--** |  |

Table 2: Out-of-School Suspensions (OSS) of 1 Day or More – Black/African American and White Students by Gender

2017-18 Full-Year DIRS Data

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Reason for Suspension** | **Black/African American**  **Females** | **White**  **Females** | **Black/African American**  **Males** | **White**  **Males** |
| **Alcohol** | 1 | 2 | - | 1 |
| **Arson** | - | - | 1 | - |
| **Assault** | 1 | - | 3 | 3 |
| **Computer** | - | - | - | 2 |
| **Controlled Substance (prescription)** | - | - | - | 1 |
| **Disruptive/Disorderly Conduct/Insubordination** | 9 | - | 9 | 22 |
| **Fighting** | 9 | - | 13 | 17 |
| **Harassment** | 1 | - | 2 | 2 |
| **Illegal Drugs** | 4 | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| **Other** | 1 | - | 4 | 2 |
| **Terroristic Threats** | - | - | - | 1 |
| **Theft** | - | 2 | - | 1 |
| **Threat/Intimidation** | 3 | 1 | 2 | 5 |
| **Tobacco** | - | 2 | 1 | 5 |
| **Verbal Abuse** | 2 | - | 1 | 2 |
| **Weapon** | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| **Total** | 32 | 11 | 39 | 71 |
| **Total WPS K-12 Enrollment as of Oct 1 2017** | 369 | 3,605 | 439 | 3,783 |
| **Risk Ratio (Count per 100 students)** | 8.7 | 0.3 | 8.9 | 1.9 |
| **Likelihood Comparison to White Students** | **29.0** | **--** | **4.7** | **--** |

The total number of OSS of 1 day or more in 2017-18, as reported in DIRS (Table 1), was 188 across grades K-12. With a total student population of 11,574 as of October 1, 2017, this is a risk ratio of 1.6 OSS per 100 students. The most frequent reason was Disruptive/Disorderly Conduct/Insubordination (50 instances), followed by Fighting (44 instances).

Disaggregated data by Racial/Ethnic Group show that in 2017-2018, Black/African American students had a risk ratio of 8.8 OSS per 100 students. This a Likelihood Comparison of 8.0 times the rate of White students, who were suspended at a rate of 1.6 OSS per 100 students. The likelihood of suspension for Multi-Race students was 2.6 times higher than the rate for White students, and the rate for Hispanic/Latinx students was 2.1 times higher than White students. Suspension data for Special Education students in 2017-18 (Table 2) who were suspended at 5.7 times the rate of Non-Special Education students.

The data for Black/African American and White students by gender (Table 3), show there was a large difference in the likelihood comparisons between groups. Black/African American females were 29.0 times more likely to be suspended than White females. Black/African American males were 4.7 times more likely to be suspended than White males.

**PLAN IMPLEMENTATION**

Summer 2018

The first meeting of the District Discipline Committee was held on August 10, 2018. The committee is comprised of all the principals and associate principals in the district. It also includes the Executive Director of Teaching and Learning and the Director of Research and Evaluation. During this meeting, the Minnesota Department of Human Rights and Wayzata Public Schools Agreement and Educational Plan (The Plan) were presented to the committee.

Fall 2018

The next District Discipline Committee meeting was held on November 14, 2018. At this meeting, the district committee reviewed and reflected on the 2017-18 DIRS OSS baseline data for K-12 students by Race/Ethnicity and Special Education status presented in Tables 1 and 2 above. The committee also reviewed the same information separated by grade level group (Elementary, Middle School, and High School). The data disaggregated by gender in Table 3, had not been complied at this time. So it was not included in the review at this meeting.

After discussing the baseline data, the committee members reviewed The Plan in detail. In groups by grade level, they identified and discussed which parts of The Plan they already had in place in their building, which parts of The Plan were not in place they would like to start doing, and which parts of The Plan they had concerns or questions about.

During the last part of the meeting, the committee reviewed the Wayzata Public Schools Discipline Policy. In this review, committee members noted how they were currently implementing the policy in their building, how they felt we could implement the policy to improve the outcomes we are getting, and where they felt we needed to change our practices across the district.

Also, throughout the fall of 2018, the Director of Research and Evaluation met with grade level group sub-committees. The elementary sub-committee met on October 30th and December 3rd, the middle school sub-committee met on October 23rd, and the high school sub-committee met on December 21st. These sub-committees engaged in detailed work clarifying discipline definitions in district policy, describing practices across buildings, reviewing how principals are using data systems to track office discipline referrals within their building, and identifying duplicate and confusing discipline data codes in our data system.

Winter 2019

Student Discipline Disproportionality presentations were made to the Teaching and Learning School Board Committee on January, 15, 2019 and to the Superintendent and the Strategy Leadership Team on February 5, 2019. Both presentations included the 2017-2018 end-of-year baseline data, a summary of the work completed by the district committee and sub-committees in the fall of 2018, a review of the 2018-2019 mid-year DIRS data disaggregated by Race/Ethnicity and Special Education Status, and a description of the work planned for the remainder of the school year.

Spring 2019

The District Discipline Committee met on March 13, 2019. The meeting included a presentation of the 2018-2019 mid-year DIRS data disaggregated by Race/Ethnicity and Special Education status for all students K-12 and also for each grade level group. The committee revisited the list of evidence-based social-emotional learning program components listed in The Plan that the Site-Level Student Discipline Implementation Teams (Site Teams) are responsible to implement. The committee separated into groups by grade level, elementary, middle and high school. In these groups, the principals shared the current structure of their Site Teams, including membership, meeting frequency, and function.

From the information shared in the grade level groups, the following was learned. The Site Teams are made up of the principal, the school social worker, classroom teacher representatives, special education representatives and student support staff. The teams meet either bi-weekly or monthly. Some activities of the teams include, reviewing discipline data, conducting root cause analyses, adjusting school plans based on the data, creating behavioral interventions and progress monitoring tools, providing professional development on behavior support strategies as well as equity, race and culture, and implementing student recognitions.

The district committee created a template for principals to use to report on Site Team implementation of each of the social-emotional learning strategies listed in The Plan. Principals planned to meet with their Site Team to review The Plan at the beginning of the 2019-20 school year and complete the implementation template to be shared at the District Discipline Committee meeting in November 2019.

During the spring of 2019, in addition to the district committee work, the Director of Research and Evaluation continued working with the grade level group sub-committees on discipline recording and reporting processes. The elementary sub-committee investigated options for a district-wide elementary discipline data recording system. The decision was made that the elementary schools would use the district Student Information System, Skyward, to record discipline incidents. Skyward is also the system used by the middle and high schools to record discipline data.

Summer 2019

In the summer of 2019, using information gathered from each of the sub-committees, the Director of Research and Evaluation worked with the district technology department to align the discipline codes in the Skyward system to the codes used in the DIRS system. Also, duplicate and unused codes were removed. A district-wide list of definitions for all Skyward discipline reason codes was created and disseminated to all buildings.

The Director of Research and Evaluation and the two Elementary Special Education Supervisors provided training on August 19, 2019 for all the elementary principals on discipline decision-making practices for special education students and procedures for recording discipline data for all students in Skyward.

On August 26, 2019, the Director of Research and Evaluation presented the 2018-2019 Discipline Report at the School Board Work Session. The presentation included, 1) a review of the 2017-18 DIRS OSS baseline data for K-12 students by Race/Ethnicity and Special Education status, 2) a report on the work done by the district committee, sub-committees and other work done to clarify definitions, discipline practices and data recording, and 3) 2018-2019 end-of-year DIRS data for K-12 students by Race/Ethnicity and Special Education status with comparisons to the baselines.

Fall 2019

The district hired an Equity Coordinator, who started September 2019. Throughout the 2019-20 school year, the coordinator conducted cultural competency training for the district leadership council and all teaching staff at each school in the district. The training included a kick-off session at the all-district staff meeting in during teacher workshop week in August and a four-part series of trainings embedded in building staff meetings throughout the year.

* All District Staff Kick-off: Perceptions and misperceptions
* Session 1: Defining Culture/Iceberg Model/Cultural Behaviors
* Session 2: Cultural Behaviors Continuums/Our Personal Cultures
* Session 3: Culture in Our Classroom – Bridging to (creating space for) students’ cultures
* Session 4: Asset vs. Deficit Framing (specific to students and families)

In October 2019, the Director of Research and Evaluation collected self-report data from each site on the extent to which their Site Team had been implementing the eight Site Team responsibilities as outlined in The Plan. Each action is listed below with a summary of the self-report data.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Plan Action** | **Status** |
| A. Establish, define, teach and model school-wide behavioral expectations that are representative of the local community and cultures. | All elementary and middle schools teach expected behavior. The high school uses Top 20 strategies in the classroom. |
| B. Retain/refine the existing methods and/or develop and implement a consistent system to be used by staff to provide positive reinforcement and acknowledgement for students who demonstrate positive behaviors. | All schools provide acknowledgement at the classroom, grade/team, and/or school-wide level. |
| C. Retain/refine the existing methods and/or develop and implement a specialized support system for students who do not demonstrate behaviors consistent with school-wide expectations. | All buildings implement personalized behavior interventions for students in need. All elementary buildings have staff that teachers can go to for consultation on student behavior needs. Two middle school use specific processing forms for students who have not demonstrated expected behavior. |
| D. Retain/refine the existing methods and/or develop and implement a system to support decisions based on data related to student progress, effective behavioral practices and screening for students requiring behavioral supports. | All buildings described a process to review individual student data and develop individual interventions as needed. Some also explained that they meet monthly or quarterly to review school-wide behavior data and identify patterns. |
| E. Use a continuum of evidence-based practices that are integrated and aligned to support behavioral success for all students. | All buildings reported that they use a range of interventions to support student behavior needs. Some shared that they use district intervention resources as part of their process, such as identifying Umbrella Behaviors and intervention matching forms. The high school has developed a Canvas page which lists a range of interventions available at the high school that all teacher can access. |
| F. Use a team-based approach to support effective implementation, progress monitoring and evaluation of outcomes. Evaluation of outcomes will occur for individual students as appropriate and for the school as a whole quarterly. | Most buildings reported that they use data to track progress of individual students receiving intervention. Some also shared that they review school-wide behavior data weekly, monthly and/or quarterly. |
| G. Ensure school personnel receive appropriate training, as determined by site and district professional development teams, on one or more of the following: implicit bias, cultural competency, de-escalation techniques, conflict resolution, and age-appropriate responses to behavior to ensure implementation of the District’s corrective action strategies. | Staff in all buildings are participating in the district cultural competency training sessions this year. A number of buildings reported that they have also provided training to their staff in bias, de-escalation and age-appropriate responses to behavior. |
| **Plan Action** | **Status** |
| H. Coordinate efforts within the school to evaluate policies and practices, which may lead to disparate outcomes in suspensions, and make changes as appropriate. | Most elementary buildings are planning to make changes to policies and practices when reviewing school-wide behavior data in the future. Secondary buildings and one elementary building provided examples of where they have made changes to practices after reviewing school-wide behavior data. |

The District Discipline Committee met on November 13, 2019. At the meeting, the committee reviewed the 2018-19 End-of-Year DIRS data and the summary of the Site Team responsibilities self-report. After reviewing the DIRS data, the committee determined that they would like to continue to clarify definitions and categorization of behaviors reported to DIRS to create more consistency across buildings. In addition, the committee separated into small groups to discuss how they are implementing the Site Team responsibilities at their site. They were then asked to individually reflect on what they believe is going well at their building and on one thing they learned that that they would like to add or change to the actions of their Site Team.

Winter 2020

On February 5, 2020 the Director of Research and Evaluation met with all Secondary Principals to review office discipline data entered into Skyward during Semester 1 of the 2019-2020 school year. The data were disaggregated by Race/Ethnicity and Special Education status. The group discussed patterns in the data and additional information that could be recorded to provide further information to inform prevention efforts.

On March 3, 2020 the Director of Research and Evaluation presented to the Superintendent and the district Strategy Leadership Team. The presentation included 2019-2020 mid-year DIRS data disaggregated by Race/Ethnicity and Special Education Status compared to 2018-2019 mid-year DIRS data.

Spring 2020

The District Discipline Committee meeting was scheduled for March 11, 2020. Due to the need to shift leadership focus to planning for mandated Distance Learning related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the March committee meeting did not take place. On March 30, 2020, the district switched to 100% distance learning for the remainder of the school year.

During the spring, the District Equity Coordinator conducted online Cultural competency training for 25 instructional paraprofessionals as an interactive book study of the book, “The Person You Mean to Be: How Good People Fight Bias,” by Dolly Chugh.

Summer 2020

In June 2020, the District Equity Coordinator brought a team of 25 district and school staff to attend a three-day, online, National Urban Alliance (NUA) Summer Institute to kick-off thinking around building a Wayzata Public Schools Equity Framework.

In July 2020, the district hired a Principal on Special Assignment to lead work on improving the district’s Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) and to start building a district-wide framework for Social-Emotional Learning instruction and support.

Also during the summer, the District Equity Coordinator created opt-in emails of Race and Racism Resources. There was a weekly email to staff with four components: self-care approach, reflection, action, and book with reading guide. There was also a weekly family/community email with four components: discussion idea, three books with reading guides (one for elementary, middle school and high school), something to watch, and something more (event, resource, etc.)

The four-part professional development series on cultural competence in which all teachers participated during the 2019-2020 school year, was embedded into the August 2020 WPS New Teacher Academy, which is required for all teachers. This four-part series will be included in the WPS New Teacher Academy for future years as well.

Fall 2020

In September 2020, the district elevated the District Equity Coordinator position to Director of Equity and Inclusion. One of the Director of Equity and Inclusion’s priorities is to work on equity at the systems level. In the fall of 2020, the director worked with district leadership and staff who attended the summer NUA training to re-organize the district’s core values with equity as the foundation. In addition, Equity Teams were established at each site to support district equity professional development through on-going work with school staff.

The Director of Equity and Inclusion created self-paced, equity embedded, professional development for all teachers in the district to complete during Fall 2020. Topics in the training included, building meaningful relationships, family outreach and relationship building, difficult conversations, and trauma-informed practices.

During the 2020-2021 school year, teachers have the option to participate in the Academy of Wayzata Educators (AWE) Courses and Study Groups. AWE Courses and Study Groups are taught and facilitated by teachers. There are 20 offerings that explicitly focus on equity and race, with 229 teachers participating. These offerings include four book studies, “The Person Your Mean to Be: How Good People Fight Bias,” by Dolly Chugh, “Waking Up White,” by Debbie Irving, “Stamped from the Beginning,” by Ibram Kendi, and “So You Want to Talk about Race,” by Ijeoma Oluo. There are also 29 offerings with explicit and embedded equity, with 324 teachers participating.

Also, during the 2020-2021 school year, the Director of Equity and Inclusion is facilitating a book study with the school board with the book, “The Person Your Mean to Be: How Good People Fight Bias,” by Dolly Chugh.

The Principal on Special Assignment coordinated MTSS training for the district MTSS leadership team and principal representatives. Training was delivered in 6 three-hour sessions between October 2020 and January 2021 and was conducted by Kim Gibbons, from the University of Minnesota. During the training, the participants set priorities for evaluating and improving our district MTSS implementation including academic and social-emotional supports.

Winter 2021

The District Discipline Committee met on January 13, 2021. At the meeting, the Director of Research and Evaluation presented a review of the district discipline goal, the 2018-2019 end-of-year DIRS data compared to baseline data, and also a look at 2018-2019 In-School Suspension (ISS) data. For the majority of the meeting, the Director of Equity and Inclusion lead the committee in professional development on equitable discipline practices.

On January 15, 2021, the Social-Emotional Learning Leadership Team held their first meeting to start their work building a district-wide social-emotional learning framework that is interconnected in with culturally responsive teaching and the district’s equity work. This team is coordinated by the Principal on Special Assignment and co-facilitated with the Director for Equity and Inclusion.

On January 22, 2021, the Director of Research and Evaluation, the Executive Director of Teaching and Learning, the Director of Equity and Inclusion, the Director of Curriculum and Instruction and the Superintendent met with Dr. Lanise Block from the MNEEP School Climate Advisory Council. During the meeting, they discussed feedback from MNEEP on the September 1, 2020 School Discipline and Disproportionality Report that was submitted to the MDHR and the work the district is currently doing around equity, social-emotional learning, and student support.

Spring 2021

The Summary Data/Outcomes in the February 1, 2021 report were presented to the Superintendent and Strategy Leadership Team on February 16, 2021 and to the Teaching and Learning School Board Committee on February 23, 2021.

The District Discipline Committee meeting was held on March 10, 2021. At that meeting, the Director of Research and Evaluation presented the Summary Data/Outcomes from February, 1 2021 report and the Director of Equity and Inclusion lead the committee in reflecting on the Summary Data/Outcomes and professional development on re-envisioning discipline.

At the April 12, 2021, the School Board approved the Wayzata Public Schools Equity Commitment as an extension of the District Strategic Roadmap. The Equity Commitment acknowledges systemic racism and inequalities in society. It declares three commitments:

* Evaluating and Expanding our Mindsets
* Embracing Productive Discomfort
* Transforming our core values to transforming from words to policies and actions that improve equity.

The WPS Equity Commitment also identifies six core values: Achievement, Collaboration, Community, Equity, Integrity, and Respect. More information about the WPS Equity Commitment can be found on the Wayzata Public Schools Equity Webpage at <https://www.wayzataschools.org/equity>.

New, Shared Leadership Equity Roles were created for implementation during the 2021-2022 school year. Each building has teachers identified for three roles, which are intended to help the district move forward through connected autonomy. These roles are filled by teachers in the school building and include a stipend for work throughout the school year.

* Equity Professional Development (PD) Lead: Facilitates district-level equity PD at the school, collaborates with Site Equity Team members, and brings an equity lens to all site-level PD planning.
* Site Equity Team Lead: Coordinates Site Equity Team, guides the team in developing reflection and learning activities for staff that extend beyond PD sessions, shares district and site equity information with school staff, brings an equity lens to site structures.
* Community Equity Rep: Represents diverse voices from their site at the district Community Equity Committee, participates as a member of their Site Equity Team, develops a deep understanding of the WPS Equity Commitment looking for ways it connects and directs all in the district.

Summer 2021

Throughout the summer, all district administrators (principals, associate principals, directors and supervisors) completed a 12-hour professional development series, “Context Matters: The History that Created the Inequities We Inherited.” The series was facilitated by the Director of Equity and Inclusion. The Context Matters session topics are listed below:

1. Session 1: Community Building and Black Excellence
2. Session 2: Black Excellence and The Origin of Race
3. Session 3: Isolate Race, Chattel Slavery and Historical Trauma
4. Session 4: Jim Crow and The New Deal
5. Session 5: The Legacy of Jim Crow and Civil Rights Movement
6. Session 6: Learning and What Now?

The Director of Research and Evaluation and the Director of Equity and Inclusion provided professional development throughout the summer on shifting the way we collect and interpret student academic performance and social-emotional well-being data from a deficit lens to an asset lens. The training was based on ideas from the book “Street Data: A Next-Generation Model for Equity, Pedagogy and School Transformation”, by Shane Safir and Jamila Dugan. All principals, associate principals, Equity PD leads, School Leadership Teams, and Peer Coaches received the training. Each building created a plan for the first six to eight weeks of school to implement asset-based data collection of student strengths, experiences and academic skills to be used by teachers and school staff to support classroom instruction and overall school climate. Each building will revisit and review implementation of their plan with the district Teaching and Learning staff later in the fall.

**Summary Data/Outcomes**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Wayzata Public Schools started the 2020-2021 school year in a Hybrid Learning Model. Students in grades K-8 attended in-person two days per week and learned at home three days per week. At the high school level, most classes were taught in a distance learning mode, with students learning from home five days per week. Some classes that required in-person learning were taught on-site, for example Biology Lab, Woodworking, etc. In response to increasing cases of COVID-19, Governor Walz ordered that all schools in the state switch to 100% distance learning for the month of December. Schools were gradually allowed to invite students back into classrooms starting mid-January.

In the first semester of the 2020-2021 school year, students were in Hybrid Learning for 3 out of 4 months. During that time, there were a total of 6 OSS of one day or more as reported in DIRS. All of the incidents occurred between November 2nd and December 10th. There was 1 suspension of a Black/African American student, 1 suspension of a Hispanic/Latinx student and 4 suspensions of White students. Because the amount of time in the school building was very limited and the number of suspensions very low, this data is not summarized in a table.

During the second semester of the year, students were gradually brought back into classrooms. Our grade K-3 students were brought back for in-person learning on January 19th. Our grade 4 and 5 students were brought back on February 1st. High school students were brought back for in-person learning on March 8th, and middle school students were brought back on March 15th. All grade levels remained in in-person learning through the end of the school year.

Suspension data reported in the DIRS system for 2020-2021 second semester were summarized in tables 4-9 below. The data should be interpreted with caution when comparing results with baseline data. The 2017-2018 baseline data are from a full school year of in-person learning, while the 2020-2021 second semester data represent only 3 months of in-person learning. Therefore the total number of suspensions and Risk Ratios are not comparable. Likelihood Comparison data may be useful to review disproportionality. However, given the very low number of suspensions during the second semester in 2020-2021, Likelihood Comparisons may be easily skewed in a positive or negative direction.

Table 4: Out-of-School Suspensions (OSS) of 1 Day or More - By Reason and Demographic Group

2020-2021 DIRS Data – SEMESTER 2 ONLY

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Asian** | **Black/African American** | **Hispanic/**  **Latinx** | **Multi Race** | **White** | **Total** |
| **Alcohol** | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| **Assault** | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 |
| **Bullying (all forms except cyber bullying)** | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| **Computer** | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| **Cyber Bullying** | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| **Disruptive/Disorderly Conduct/Insubordination** | - | - | 2 | - | 1 | 3 |
| **Fighting** | - | 3 | - | 1 | 2 | 6 |
| **Harassment** | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| **Illegal Drugs** | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 |
| **Other** | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| **Theft** | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| **Threat/Intimidation** | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| **Tobacco** | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| **Vandalism/Property Related** | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| **Verbal Abuse** | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| **Weapon** | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| **Total** | 1 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 5 | 16 |
| **Total WPS K-12 Enrollment SY21 MDE Data File** | 2,608 | 875 | 539 | 672 | 7,160 | 11,870 |
| **Mid-Year Risk Ratio** | **0.0** | **0.6** | **0.6** | **0.1** | **0.1** | **0.1** |
| **Likelihood Comparison to White Students** | **<0.0** | **6.0** | **6.0** | **1.0** | **--** | **--** |

Table 5: Out-of-School Suspensions (OSS) of 1 Day or More – Likelihood Comparison between Students of Color\* and White Students

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2017-18 Full Year** | **2020-2021 Semester 2** | **Difference** |
| **Black/African American Students** | 8.0x | 6.0x | -2.0 |
| **Hispanic/Latinx Students** | 2.1x | 6.0x | +3.9 |
| **Multi-Race Students** | 2.6x | 1.0x | -1.6 |

*\* Asian students were not included in the table because they were less likely than White students to be suspended in both the 2017-2018 baseline data and the 2019-2020 mid-year data.*

In the 2017-2018 baseline DIRS data, the likelihood of OSS of one day or more was 8.0 times higher for Black/African American students compared to White students. In the second semester of the 2020-2021 school year, Black/African American students were 6.0 times more likely to be suspended, which is a decrease of -2.0. The Likelihood Comparison for Multi-Race students compared to White students also went down to the level where there was no disproportionality of suspensions between these two groups. The Likelihood Comparison for Hispanic/Latinx students increased. In the 2017-2018 full-year data, Hispanic/Latinx students were 2.1 times more likely to be suspended compared to White students. In the 2020-2021 second semester data, Hispanic/Latinx students were 6.0 times more likely to be suspended than White students, and increase of 3.9.

Table 6: Out-of-School Suspensions (OSS) of 1 Day or More – Black/African American and White Students by Gender

2019-20 Mid-Year DIRS Data

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Reason for Suspension** | **Black/African American**  **Females** | **White**  **Females** | **Black/African American**  **Males** | **White**  **Males** |
| **Alcohol** | - | - | - | - |
| **Assault** | - | - | 1 | - |
| **Bullying (all forms except cyber bullying)** | - | - | - | - |
| **Computer** | - | - | - | 1 |
| **Cyber Bullying** | - | - | - | - |
| **Disruptive/Disorderly Conduct/Insubordination** | - | 1 | - | - |
| **Fighting** | 1 | - | 2 | 2 |
| **Harassment** | - | - | - | - |
| **Illegal Drugs** | - | - | 1 | - |
| **Other** | - | - | - | - |
| **Theft** | - | - | - | - |
| **Threat/Intimidation** | - | - | - | - |
| **Tobacco** | - | - | - | - |
| **Vandalism/Property Related** | - | - | - | - |
| **Verbal Abuse** | - | - | - | - |
| **Weapon** | - | - | - | 1 |
| **Total** | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| **Total WPS K-12 Enrollment SY21 MDE Data File** | 427 | 3,533 | 448 | 3,627 |
| **Risk Ratio (Count per 100 students)** | 0.2 | 0.0 | 0.9 | 0.1 |
| **Likelihood Comparison to White Students** | **--** | **--** | **9.0** | **--** |

Table 7: Out-of-School Suspensions (OSS) of 1 Day or More – Likelihood Comparison between Black/African American Students and White Students by Gender

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2017-18 Full Year** | **2020-2021 Semester 2** | **Difference** |
| **Black/African American - Males** | 4.7x | 9.0x | +4.3 |
| **Black/African American - Females** | 29.0x | -- | -- |

In the 2017-2018 baseline DIRS data, the likelihood of OSS of one day or more was 29.0 times higher for Black/African American females compared to White females. In the 2020-2021 second semester, the Risk Ratio for White females was zero, therefore a Likelihood Comparison cannot be computed. The Likelihood Comparison for Black/African American males increased, from 4.7 times more likely in 2017-2018 full-year data to 9.0 times more likely in the 2020-2021 second semester data, which was an increase of 4.3.

Table 8: Out-of-School Suspensions (OSS) of 1 Day or More - By Special Education Status

2019-20 Mid-Year DIRS Data

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Special Ed.** | **Not Special Ed.** | **Total** |
| **Alcohol** | - | - | - |
| **Assault** | - | 1 | 1 |
| **Bullying (all forms except cyber bullying)** | - | - | - |
| **Computer** | - | 1 | 1 |
| **Cyber Bullying** | - | - | - |
| **Disruptive/Disorderly Conduct/Insubordination** | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| **Fighting** | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| **Harassment** | - | 1 | 1 |
| **Illegal Drugs** | 1 | - | 1 |
| **Other** | - | - | - |
| **Theft** | - | - | - |
| **Threat/Intimidation** | - | - | - |
| **Tobacco** | 1 | - | 1 |
| **Vandalism/Property Related** | - | - | - |
| **Verbal Abuse** | 1 | - | 1 |
| **Weapon** | - | 1 | 1 |
| **Total** | 7 | 9 | 16 |
| **Total WPS K-12 Enrollment SY21 MDE Data File** | 1,058 | 10,812 | 11,870 |
| **Mid-Year Risk Ratio** | **0.7** | **0.1** | **0.1** |
| **Likelihood Comparison to Non-Special Ed Students** | **7.0** | **--** | **--** |

Table 9: Out-of-School Suspensions (OSS) of 1 Day or More – Likelihood Comparison between Special Education Students and Non-Special Education Students

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **2017-18 Full Year** | **2020-2021 Semester 2** | **Difference** |
| **Special Education Students** | 5.7x | 7.0x | +1.3 |

The Likelihood Comparison for Special Education students compared to Non-Special Education students increased, from 5.7 times more likely in 2017-2018 full-year data to 7.0 times more likely in the 2020-2021 second semester data, which was a increase of 1.3.

**Changes Implemented / Future Plans**

The Summary Data/Outcomes in this report will be presented to the Superintendent and Strategy Leadership Team and to the Teaching and Learning School Board Committee this fall. The next District Discipline Committee meeting is scheduled for November 17, 2021.

The Director of Research and Evaluation and Director of Equity and Inclusion will work with the new Executive Director of Teaching and Learning this fall to continue developing the district’s short- and long-term plans for addressing suspension disproportionality.