



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF  
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL

RESEARCH & EVALUATION  
3300 FOREST HILL BOULEVARD, B-246  
WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33406

PHONE: 561-434-8469 / FAX: 561-357-7611

[WWW.PALMBEACHSCHOOLS.ORG](http://WWW.PALMBEACHSCHOOLS.ORG)

PAUL HOUCHENS  
DIRECTOR

JOHN-ANTHONY BOGGESS  
CHIEF OF STAFF

ADAM MILLER, PH.D.  
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT,  
PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

September 15, 2022

**TO:** School Board Members

**THROUGH:** Michael J. Burke, Superintendent *MRB*

**FROM:** John-Anthony Boggess, Chief of Staff *JB*  
Adam Miller, Ph.D., Assistant Superintendent, Performance Accountability *AM*

**SUBJECT:** FY19 TO FY22 END-OF-YEAR ATTENDANCE, DISCIPLINARY INCIDENTS, AND ACTIONS

The Department of Research & Evaluation (DRE) developed an interactive [FY19 to FY22 End-of-Year Attendance, Disciplinary Incidents, and Actions dashboard](#) summarizing student attendance and behavior overall and by subgroup.<sup>1</sup> Data includes the type, number, and percent of total absences, as well as discipline incidents, and actions by subgroup and by school occurring in FY19, FY20, FY21, and FY22. This document outlines some high-level observations from the dashboard. It is important to note that differences from FY20 to FY22 may be due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the availability of distance-learning in FY20 and FY21 but not in FY22. FY19 data is included for comparison to a full year of on-campus learning. Overall, FY22 absenteeism and out-of-school suspensions exceed the most recent full-year in-person instruction (FY19).

### Summary of Results

#### Attendance

- In FY22, 38.4% of students had 11 or more total absences at end-of-year. This reflects an increase in the percentage of students with 11 or more absences from FY19 (23.2%), FY20 (23.4%), and FY21 (20.8%). From FY19 to FY22, the percentage of students with 11 or more absences increased among Black students (FY19: 20.8%; FY20: 26.8%; FY21: 26.2%; FY22: 36.1%), Hispanic students (FY19: 26.6%; FY20: 27.1%; FY21: 24.1%; FY22: 44.9%), and White students (FY19: 22.2%; FY20: 17.1%; FY21: 13.5%; FY22: 33.9%).

#### Disciplinary Incidents

- The total number of incidents reported in FY22 ( $n=46,395$ ) was greater than the total number of incidents reported in FY21 ( $n=13,540$ ) and FY20 ( $n=37,037$ ) but less than the total number of incidents reported in FY19 ( $n=49,240$ ).
- Level 1 incidents accounted for 33.9% of the incidents reported in FY22 compared to 35.1% in FY21, 36.0% in FY20, and 34.6% in FY19. Level 2 incidents accounted for 52.9% of the incidents reported in FY22 compared to 53.1% in FY21, 52.8% in FY20, and 54.0% in FY19.
- Incidents rising to the School Environmental Safety Incident Reporting (SESIR) level increased in FY22 (17.0%) relative to prior years (FY19: 14.0%; FY20: 14.3%; FY21: 15.6%).

<sup>1</sup> The FY19 to FY22 End-of-Year Attendance, Incidents, and Actions dashboard may be found at: <http://l.sdpbc.net/qf7a2>

### Disciplinary Actions

- In FY22, 19.7% of disciplinary incidents resulted in In-School Suspension (ISS) and 43.3% of incidents resulted in Out-of-School Suspension (OSS). The proportion of incidents resulting in OSS increased from FY21 (36.4%), FY20 (36.5%), and FY19 (36.6%).
- Of the students receiving OSS at least once, more than half of these students were Black (FY19: 55.3%; FY20: 55.2%, FY21: 51.6%; FY22: 54.5%), followed by Hispanic students (FY19: 24.2; FY20: 25.5%, FY21: 24.8%; FY22: 26.3%), followed by White students (FY19: 16.6%; FY20: 15.5%; FY21: 19.4%; FY22: 15.4%).
- For each year from FY19 to FY22, there were disproportionalities in OSS by race for Level 1 incidents; 13.9% of Black students compared to 10.3% of Hispanic, and 5.7% of White students received an OSS for a Level 1 incident in FY22.

### Next Steps

Principals can monitor their school's discipline and attendance data by accessing up-to-date dashboards available on the District's Educational Data Warehouse (EDW). The Attendance Dashboard (Report number: RAGOA0564) is a summary level report showing all schools with students having seven or more unexcused absences within the last 30 days. The Discipline Dashboard (Report number: RDGOA0494) provides graphic displays of number of events and students by month, events by time of day, location, and incident type as well as student counts by number of referrals.

The Principal Dashboard (Report number: RXOOA0636) presents the percentages of students with 11 or more, 15 or more, and 21 or more absences by subgroup along with the percentages of students with one or more discipline referrals, one or more in-school suspensions, and one or more out-of-school suspensions by subgroup. Staff are encouraged to explore issues of attendance and discipline using these dashboards and the data presented in this End-of-year Executive Summary. The following questions are offered as a guide to begin exploration:

1. Which incident types are most common? Has this trend changed over the last three years? (see Discipline Dashboard)
2. When and where do most disciplinary events occur? Which steps have been taken to address these patterns? (see Discipline Dashboard)
3. Are there substantial subgroup differences in the rate of incident referrals, OSS, and ISS? (see End-of-Year Attendance, Disciplinary Incidents, and Actions Dashboard and Principal Dashboard)
4. When comparing your school's absence status to schools of the same type in your area, is your school's absence status significantly higher or lower? (see Attendance Dashboard)
5. Are there substantial subgroup differences in absence rates? (see End-of-Year Attendance, Disciplinary Incidents, and Actions Dashboard and Principal Dashboard)

For questions regarding this report, please contact Paul Houchens, Director, Research & Evaluation at 561-434-8780 or Dr. Adam Miller, Assistant Superintendent, Performance Accountability at 561-434-8851. For questions about individual school data, please contact the appropriate regional/instructional superintendent or school principal. Questions about attendance and discipline policies should be directed to Diane Wyatt, Director, Safe Schools at 561-653-5180.

MJB/JB/AM/PH/RC/MP:wI

c: Academic and Operating Chiefs  
Regional/Instructional Superintendents  
Assistant Superintendents  
Academic Directors  
Principals