



# San Diego Unified School District

## Fact Sheet

### Suspension Rates

In school year 2004–05, 8,460 students received 14,101 suspensions. The overall district suspension rate was 10.5 suspensions per 100 students. The suspension rate for male students was 15.3 per 100 students, and for female students 5.4 per 100 students.

Suspension rates by ethnicity in 2004–05:

<i>Ethnicity</i>	<i>Suspensions Per 100</i>
African-American	21.8
Asian	2.8
Filipino	2.6
Hispanic	12.3
Indochinese	5.2
Native American	13.7
Pacific Islander	9.2
White	5.4

The suspension rates for elementary, middle, and senior high grades all increased in 2004–05. Grades 6, 7, and 8 continue to have the highest suspension rates at 22.8 suspensions per 100 students. In 2004–05, the average length of suspension was 2.17 days.

Suspension rates for theft/stolen property and weapon offenses decreased in 2004–05, while the rates for alcohol/tobacco/drugs, assault/battery, disruption/defiance, hate incidents, obscenity, property damage, and sexual harassment increased. The suspension rates for robbery/extortion and threats/intimidation/harassment remained the same.

The district suspension rate of 10.5 suspensions per 100 students was the highest rate in 24 years of data collection. It is not clear what caused this rate increase after a two-year decline. However, the district continues to take steps to reduce suspensions. The Counseling and Guidance department continues to work with counselors and Special Education staff in the area of prevention to identify students who exhibit at-risk behaviors, such as poor attendance and disruptive behavior. Students with multiple suspensions are identified, and counselors work with these students to address the underlying issues leading to suspension. Additionally, the Race/Human Relations and Advocacy department provides training to staff on culturally relevant teaching strategies and helps teachers reach students of diverse ethnic backgrounds. The district is also working with various community groups to educate students, parents, and staff about offenses leading to and the process surrounding suspensions. This communication is essential to achieving the district's goal of consistently enforcing student discipline policies while reducing suspensions.

### SUMMARY

#### In the 2004–05 school year:

- ❖ 8,460 students received 14,101 suspensions
- ❖ The district suspension rate was 10.5 per 100 students
- ❖ Suspension rates by gender
  - 15.3 male students per 100
  - 5.4 female students per 100
- ❖ Suspension rates by ethnicity:
  - African-American 21.8 per 100
  - Asian 2.8 per 100
  - Filipino 2.6 per 100
  - Hispanic 12.3 per 100
  - Indochinese 5.2 per 100
  - Native American 13.7 per 100
  - Pacific Islander 9.2 per 100
  - White 5.4 per 100