

WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION
Research, Planning & Technology Services - Research & Evaluation

**Out of School Suspensions
Winnipeg School Division
2021/2022**

Introduction

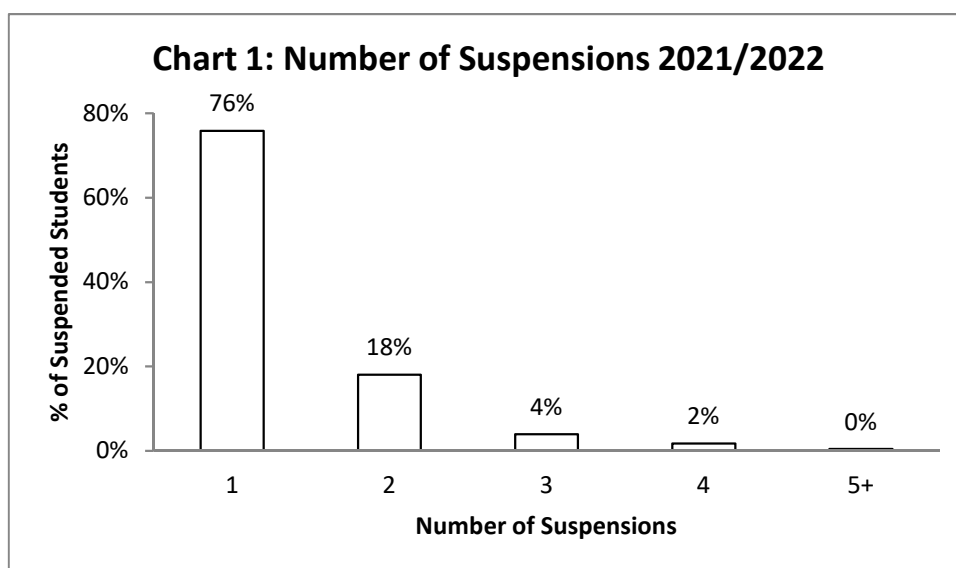
This report summarizes the out of school suspensions in Winnipeg School Division for the 2021/2022 school year. Only out of school suspensions greater than one half day are included. The report is based on information included on the student suspension form in the student information system.

Suspension Summary

There were 611 suspensions given to 460 students in 2021/2022. This represents 1.4% of the total student registration. The total cumulative number of suspension days for 2021/2022 was 1,649.5 days. To put this in perspective, there were approximately 5,858,398 student days in 2021/2022 (182 in-school days for 32,189¹ enrolled students), which means that suspension days represent 0.03% of total student days in the division.

Number of Suspensions

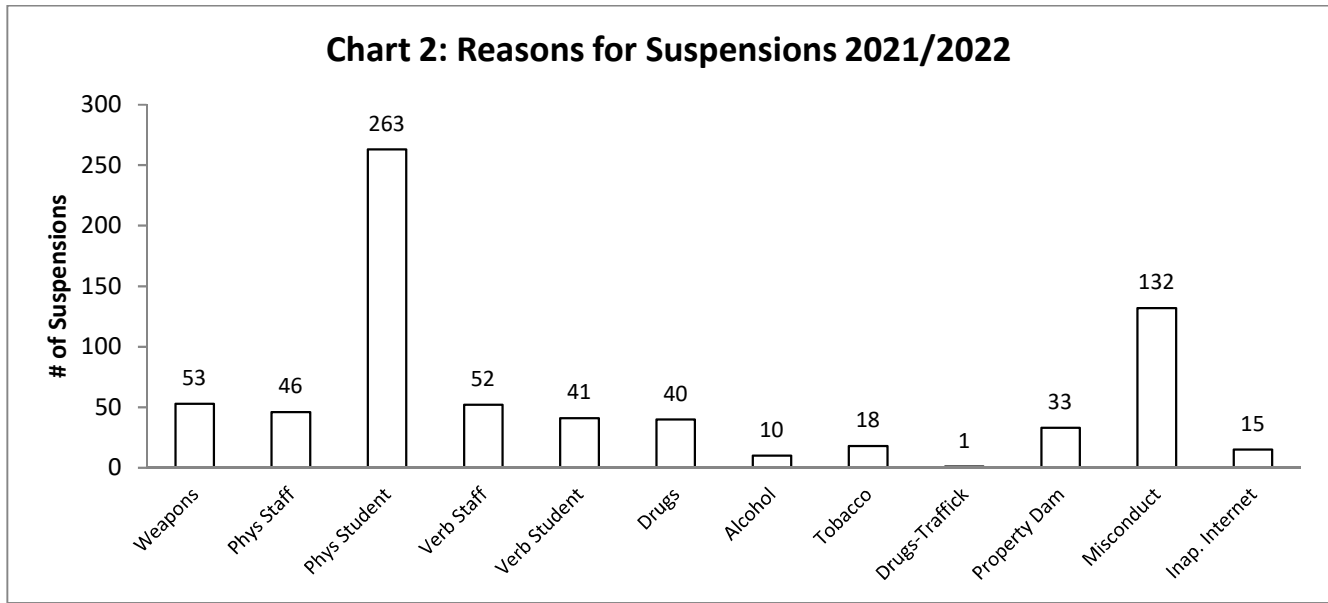
The number of suspensions received by individual students ranged from one to five. Of the students who received suspensions in 2021/2022 most (76%) received one suspension, while 6% received three or more suspensions (**Chart 1**).



¹ Total enrolment is the number of different students who were enrolled sometime during the school year, excluding those with negative student numbers, withdrawal codes of 'no show' or 'registration error' and those at Adolescent Parent Centre and Winnipeg Adult Education Centre.

Reasons for Suspensions

Chart 2 shows the reasons why students were suspended. Students could have multiple suspension reasons assigned to a suspension. The most frequent reasons for a suspension were for Physical Assault of a Student (263), Misconduct (132), Weapons Offense (53) and Verbal Assault of Staff (52). Behaviours that result in a Misconduct suspension include insubordination, uncontrollable behaviour, setting off the fire alarm, and arson/attempted arson. In all subsequent charts, suspensions for use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco, and illegal drugs-trafficking were combined into Drug/Alcohol/Tobacco suspensions.



Who was Suspended?

In 2021/2022, 1.4% of division students were suspended. **Chart 3** provides a count of the total number of suspended students by grade. In addition, it shows the number of suspended students as a percentage of each grade's total enrolment. Grade 9 recorded the highest number of suspended students (120) and the highest percentage of suspended students (4.9% of Grade 9 students).

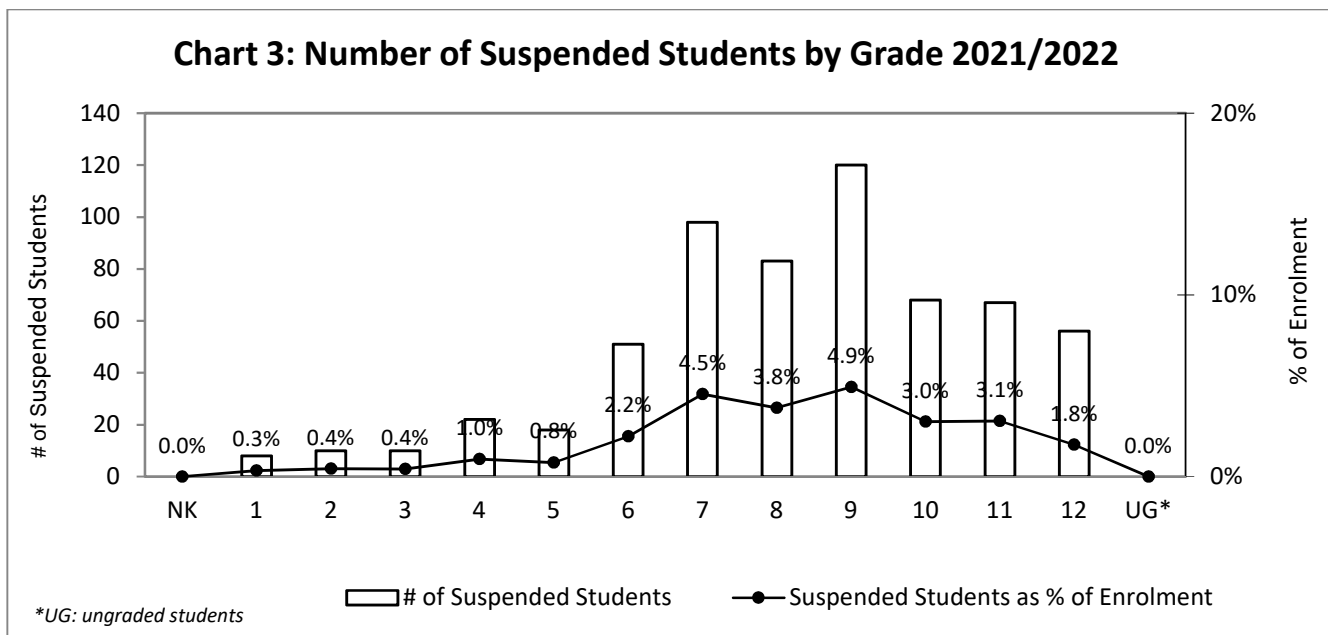
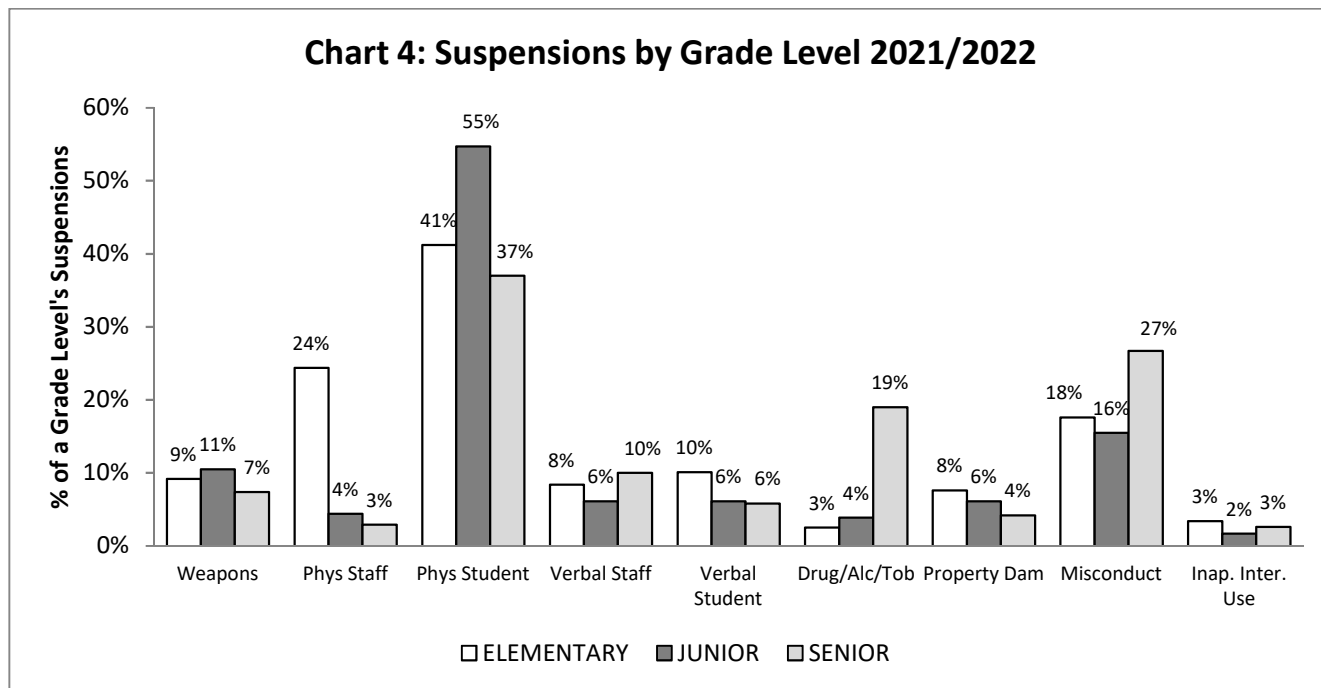


Chart 4 compares the reasons for suspensions by grade level. There were 119 suspensions given to elementary students (N to 6, EU), 181 suspensions given to junior high students (7 to 8, JU), and 311 suspensions given to senior high students (9 to 12, SU). The bars represent the percent of a grade levels' total suspensions given for that reason code. For example, 9% of elementary suspensions were for weapons violations, 24% for physical assault of staff, 41% for physical assault of student, and so on. Percentages for a grade level will total more than 100% because of the multiple suspension reasons given for some suspensions.



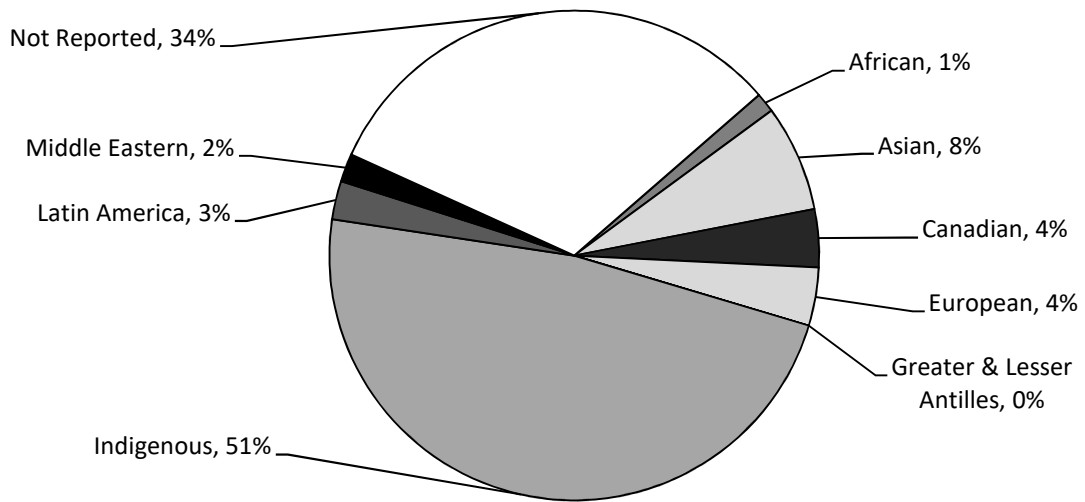
Elementary students were more likely than older students to receive suspensions for physical assault of staff, verbal assault of students, property damage and inappropriate use of the internet. Junior high students were more likely than other grade levels to receive suspensions for weapon offenses and physical assault of students. Senior high students were more likely than junior high or elementary students to receive suspensions for verbal assault of staff, use and/or trafficking of illegal substances and misconduct.

Learning Assistance Centre (LAC) students, who make up 0.82% of the total enrolment, received 5.2% of all suspensions. LAC students received 21% of all suspensions for verbal assault of staff, 12% of all suspensions for property damage, 9% of all weapon violations, 9% of all suspensions for physical assault of staff, 5% of all suspensions for misconduct and 5% of all suspensions for verbal assault of students.

Overall, female students received 230 suspensions (37.6% of the total) compared to 381 (62.4%) for male students. The percentage of suspensions to male and female students varies by grade level. In the elementary grades, the percentages were 77% male and 23% female, in junior high grades it was 49% male and 51% female and in secondary high grades it was 62% male and 38% female.

The total number of self-declared Indigenous students who received suspensions represented 2.7% of the total WSD Indigenous student population (30.1% of total enrolment) in 2021/2022. This equals 61% of all suspensions in 2021/2022. **Chart 5** provides the breakdown of suspensions by ethnic background (see Appendix A for more details). Students could declare up to three ethnic backgrounds regardless of their citizenship. Winnipeg School Division does not collect data on race and relies on the voluntary declaration by students regarding their ethnic background. Since students could declare up to three ethnicities, the total sum of all groups will be higher than 100% as some students have been counted multiple times.

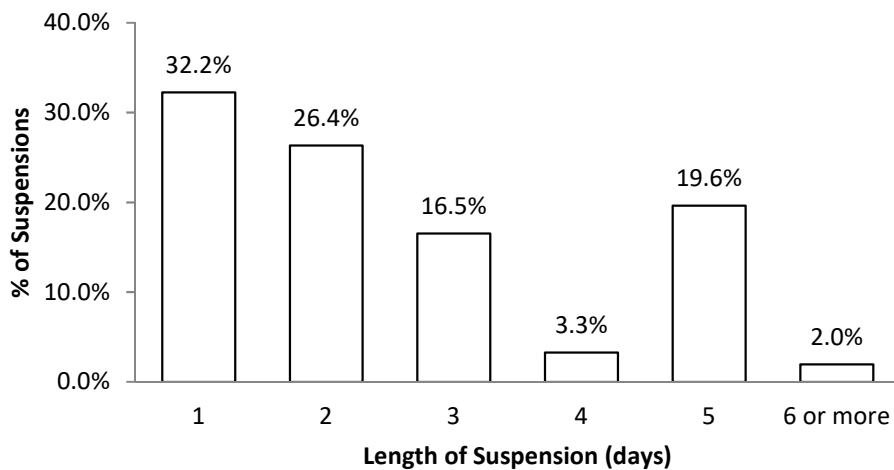
Chart 5: Ethnicity of Suspended Students 2021/2022



Length of Suspensions

Chart 6 shows the distribution of suspension lengths expressed as a percentage of total suspensions. Almost 60% percent of suspensions in 2021/2022 were for one to two days while 2.0% were for more than five days. The 12 suspensions that were longer than five days in 2021/2022 were analyzed in more detail. These longer suspensions were mostly given for physical assault of students (six), physical assault of staff (three) and verbal assault of staff (three). The longer suspensions were equally divided among male and female students (six each). The largest percentage of the longer suspensions (75%) was given to senior high students while junior high students received 25%. Elementary students did not receive any of these longer suspensions. Seventeen percent (17%) of the longer suspensions (two) were given to students in the LAC program.

Chart 6: Length of Suspensions 2021/2022



Summary

- 1.4% of division students received a suspension during the 2021/2022 school year.
- Most students who received a suspension (76%) received only one suspension.
- Most suspensions (58.6%) were for no more than two days. The most frequent suspensions (32.2%) were for one day.
- Grade 9 recorded the highest number of suspended students (120) and the highest percentage of suspended students (4.9% of Grade 9 students).
- LAC students, making up 0.82% of the total enrolment, accounted for 5.2% of the suspensions.
- 62% of all suspensions were given to male students. The gender difference was greatest in elementary grades where 77% of suspensions went to male students.
- Self-declared Indigenous students accounted for 61% of all students suspended.
- Overall, the most frequent reasons for suspension were for physical assault of student (263), misconduct (132), weapons offenses (53) and verbal assault of staff (52).
- 55% of suspensions given to junior high students were for physical assault of student compared to 41% of elementary and 37% of senior high suspensions.
- 24% of suspensions given to elementary students were for physical assault of staff compared to 4% of senior high and 3% of junior high suspensions.
- 19% of senior high suspensions were for the use and/or trafficking of illegal substances compared to 3% of elementary and 4% of junior high suspensions.
- Students could report up to three ethnic groups. The most commonly reported ethnic category among suspended students was Indigenous. Indigenous students represented 30.1% of all students enrolled in Winnipeg School Division in 2021/2022, however, the percentage of Indigenous suspended students represented only 2.7% of the total enrolment of Indigenous students in 2021/2022.

Appendix A

Ethnic groups included in each Ethnic Category:

- **African** includes:
 - African, African American, African Canadian, Algerian, Black, Burundian, Cameroonian, Chadian, Congolese, Eritrean, Ethiopian, Gabonese, Gambian, Kenyan, Liberian, Libyan, Madagascan, Moroccan, Mozambican, Mulatto, Nigerian, Nigerois, Senegalese, Somalian, Sudanese, Tanzanian, Togolese, Ugandan, Zairian, Zulu.
- **American** includes:
 - American
- **Asian** includes:
 - Bangladeshi, Bhutanese, Bruneian, Burmese, Cambodian, Cambodian/Khmer, Chinese, Filipino, Indian, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Kazakh, Laotian, Maldivian, Mongolian, Macau, Nepalese, Pakistani, Pilipino, Russian, Singaporean, Sri Lankan, Taiwanese, Thai, Timorese, Turkmen, Uzbek, Uyghur, Vietnamese
- **Canadian** includes:
 - Canadian, Mennonite
- **European** includes:
 - Albanian, Andorran, Austrian, Belarusian, Belgian, Bosnian, British, Bulgarian, Croatian, Czech, Dane, Dutch, Estonian, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Herzegovina, Hungarian, Icelander, Irish, Italian, Latvian, Liechtensteiners, Lithuanian, Luxembourgers, Macedonian, Maltese, Moldovan, Monegasques, Montenegrin, North Macedonian, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Sammarinese, Scottish, Serbian, Slovakian, Slovenian, Spanish, Swedish, Swiss, Ukrainian, Welsh
- **Greater & Lesser Antilles** includes:
 - Antiguan, Aruban, Bajan, Barbadian, Barbudan, Caymanians, Ciboney, Cubans, Curaçaoans, Dominican, Grenadian, Guadeloupean, Haitian, Jamaican, Kittitian, Martiniquais, Montserratians, Nevisian, Puerto Rican, Saint-Barth, Saint-Barthélemois, Saint Martin Guianas, St. Lucian, Statian, Tobagonians, Trinidadians, Trinbagonian, Trinis, Vincentians, Virgin Islander
- **Indigenous** includes:
 - Aboriginal, Anishinaabe, Chippewa, Cree, Dakota, Dene, First Nations, Ininiw, Inuit, Inuktitut, Metis, Native not specified, Ojibway, Oji-Cree, Saulteaux, Sioux, Swampy Cree, Tsimshian
- **Latin America** includes:
 - Argentinian, Brazilian, Bolivian, Chilean, Columbian, Costa Rican, Ecuadorian, Guadeloupe, Guatemalan, Honduran, Martinican, Mexican, Nicaraguan, Peruvian, Paraguayan, Salvadoran, Trinidadian, Uruguayan, Venezuelan
- **Middle Eastern** includes:
 - Arab, Cypriot, Egyptian, Emirati, Iranian, Iraqi, Israeli, Jordanian, Kuwaiti, Lebanese, Omani, Palestinian, Qatari, Saudi Arabian, Saudi, Syrian, Turkish, Yemeni
- **Oceania** includes:
 - Australian, New Zealander, Togolese
- **Not Reported** includes:
 - Students who did not declare their ethnicity

Students could report up to three ethnic groups and therefore multiple counts existed. A review of responses was conducted in 2021/2022 which showed that many students reported ethnic groups from the same ethnic category. The chart below shows the percentage of responses based on ethnic category and number of ethnic groups declared. In 2021/2022, of students who were suspended, 94 students did not declare their ethnicity

(20% of all suspended students). One hundred thirty-six (136) students declared one ethnicity with almost 50% reporting an Indigenous ethnicity, followed by Asian (19%), and African (10%). One hundred seventy-seven students (177) declared two ethnicities with the majority belonging to the Indigenous ethnic category (83%) followed by European (7%) and Asian (5%). Fifty-three students declared three ethnicities with a large proportion declaring Indigenous ethnic groups (81%) followed by European (11%).

