

WINNIPEG SCHOOL DIVISION

Research, Planning & Technology Services - Research & Evaluation

Out of School Suspensions Winnipeg School Division 2023/2024

Introduction

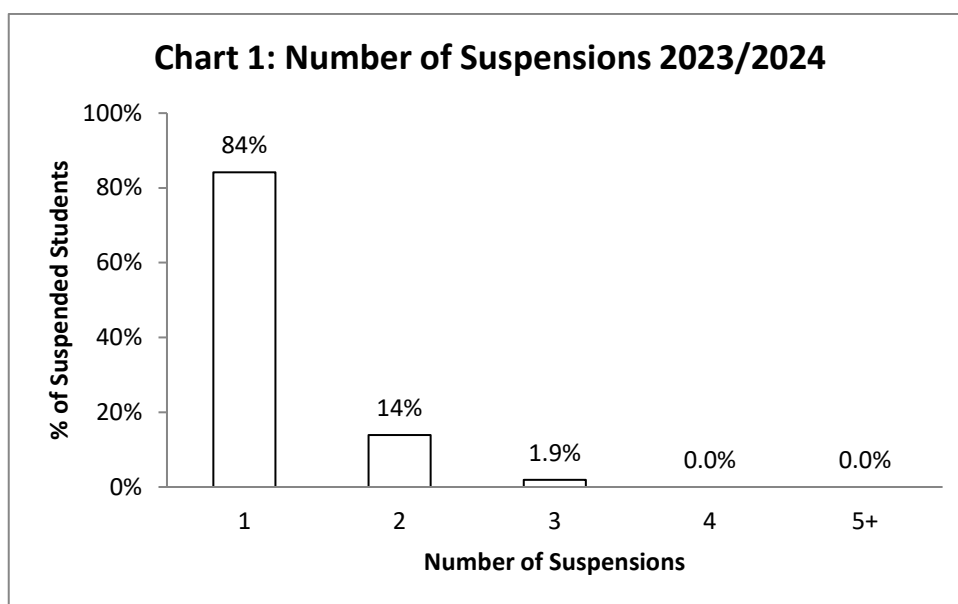
This report summarizes the out of school suspensions in Winnipeg School Division for the 2023/2024 school year. Only out of school suspensions greater than one half day are included. The report is based on information included on the student suspension form in the student information system.

Suspension Summary

There were 246 suspensions given to 209 students in 2023/2024. This represents 0.6% of the total student registration. The total cumulative number of suspension days for 2023/2024 was 689.5 days. To put this in perspective, there were approximately 6,234,720 student days in 2023/2024 (186 in-school days for 33,520¹ enrolled students), which means that suspension days represent 0.01% of total student days in the division.

Number of Suspensions

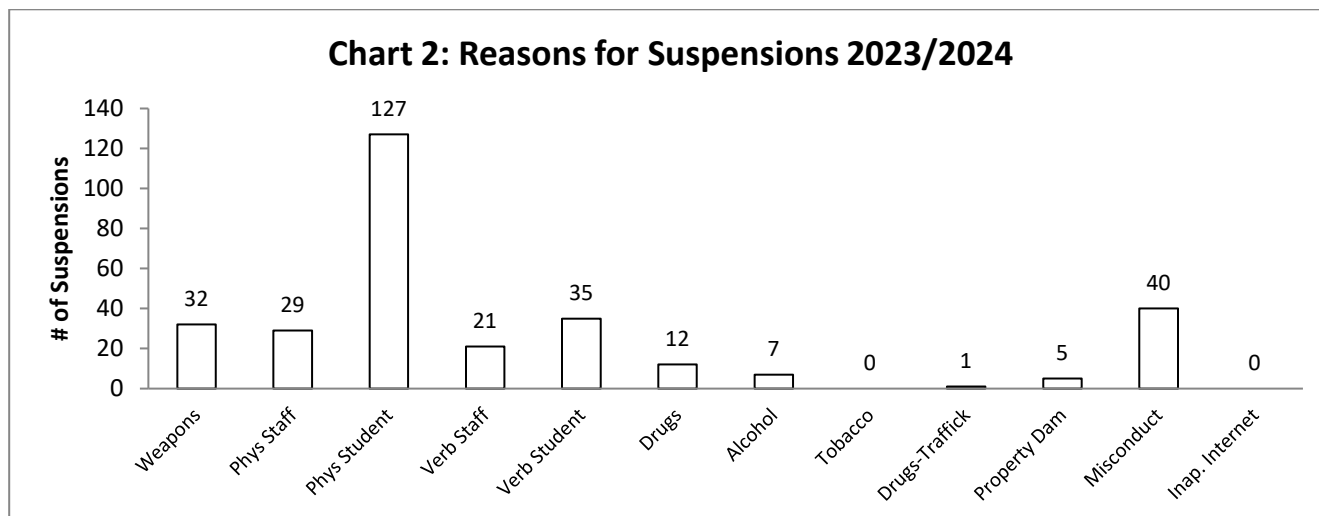
The number of suspensions received by individual students ranged from one to three. Of the students who received suspensions in 2023/2024 most (84%) received one suspension, while 14% received two suspensions and 1.9% received three suspensions (**Chart 1**).



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.

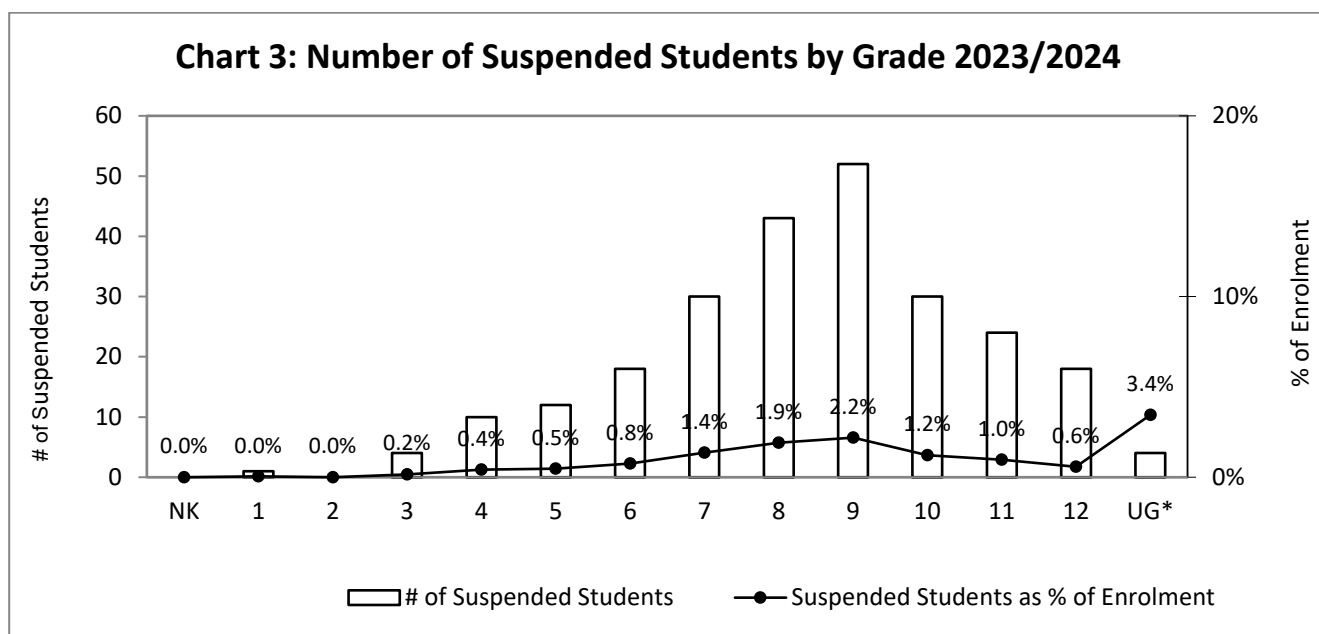
Reasons for Suspensions

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 (127), Misconduct (40), Verbal Assault of Student (35), Weapons Offense (32), and Physical Assault of Staff (29). 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.



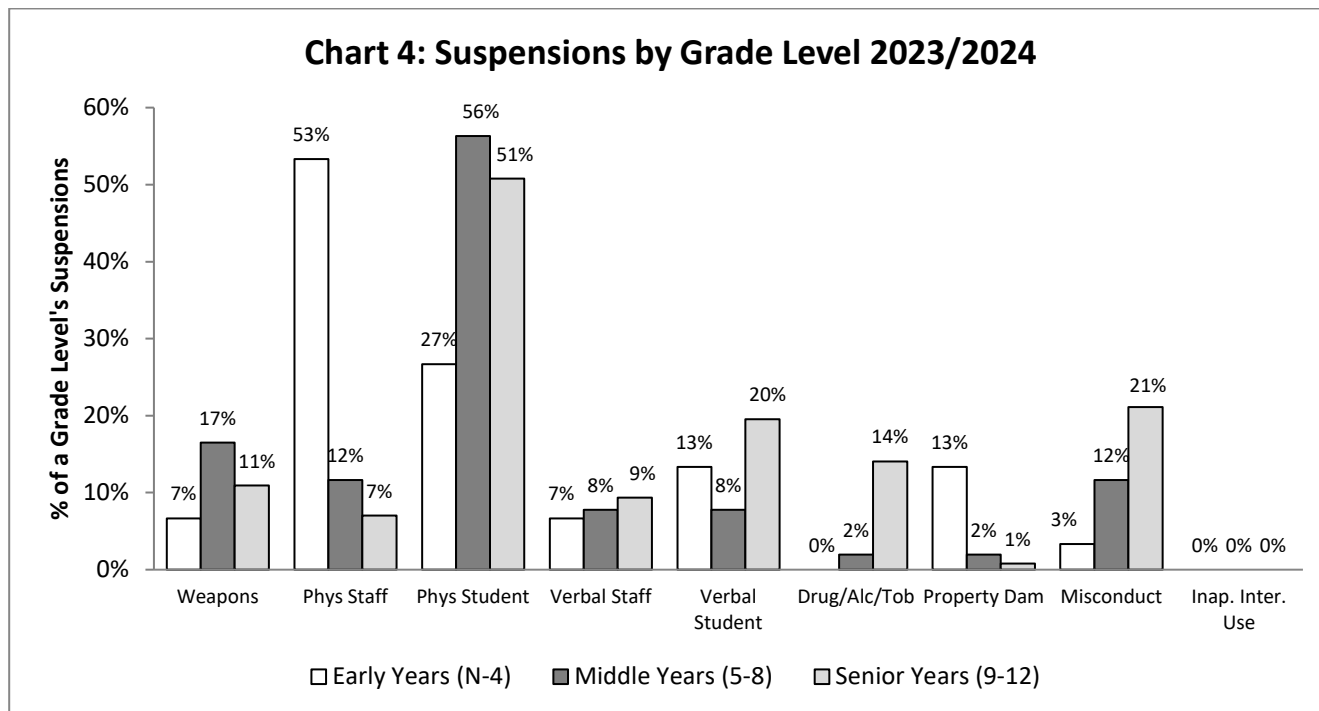
Who was Suspended?

In 2023/2024, 0.6% 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 (52) whereas the ungraded students had the highest percentage of suspended students per grade (3.4% of ungraded students).



**Based on total suspensions at each grade level and not suspended students by grade level*

Chart 4 compares the reasons for suspensions by grade level. There were 15 suspensions given to early years students (N to 4, EU), 103 suspensions given to middle years students (5 to 8, JU), and 128 suspensions given to senior years students (9 to 12, SU). The bars represent the percent of a grade levels' total suspensions given for that reason code. For example, 7% of early years suspensions were for weapons violations, 53% for physical assault of staff, 27% 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.



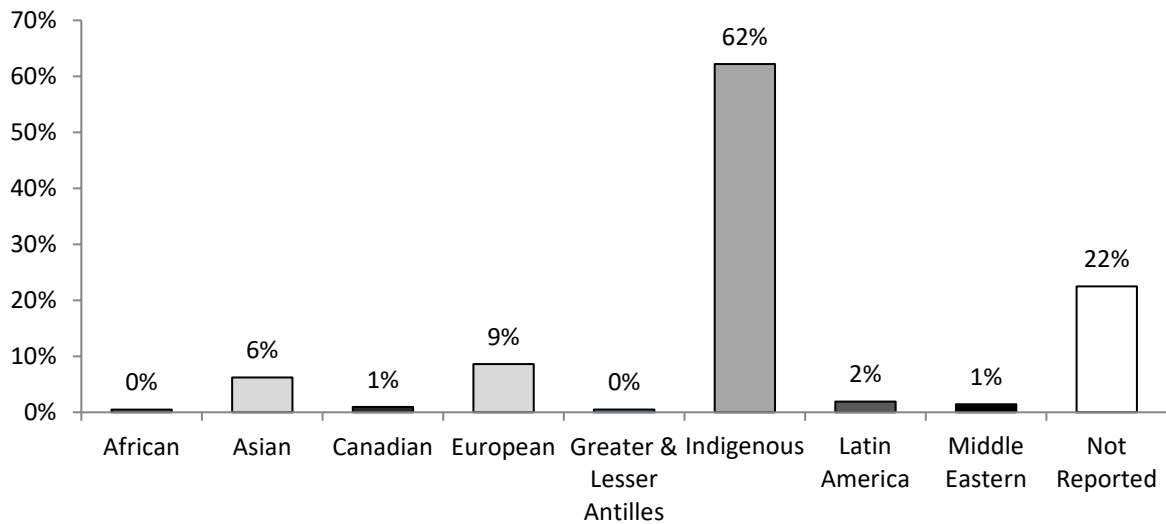
Early years students were more likely than older students to receive suspensions for physical assault of staff and property damage. Middle years students were more likely than other grade levels to receive suspensions for weapons offenses and physical assault of students. Senior years students were more likely than other grade levels to receive suspensions for verbal assault of staff, verbal assault of students, use and/or trafficking of illegal substances, and misconduct.

Learning Assistance Centre (LAC) students, who make up 0.65% of the total enrolment, received 4.1% of all suspensions. LAC students received 24% of all suspensions for verbal assault of staff, 20% of all suspensions for property damage, 17% of all suspensions for physical assault of staff and 15% of all suspensions for misconduct.

Overall, female students received 101 suspensions (41.1% of the total) compared to 145 (58.9%) for male students. The percentage of suspensions to male and female students varies by grade level. In the early years, the percentages were 100% male and 0% female, in middle years it was 57% male and 43% female and in the senior years it was 55% male and 45% female.

The total number of self-declared Indigenous students who received suspensions represented 1.5% of the total WSD Indigenous student population (30.7% of total enrolment) in 2023/2024. This equals 62% of all suspensions in 2023/2024. **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.

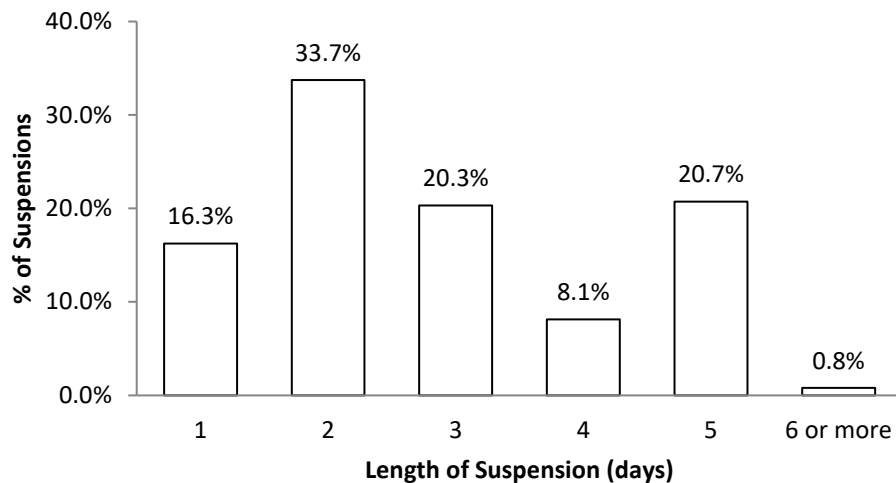
Chart 5: Ethnicity of Suspended Students 2023/2024



Length of Suspensions

Chart 6 shows the distribution of suspension lengths expressed as a percentage of total suspensions. Fifty percent of suspensions in 2023/2024 were for one to two days while 21.5% were for five days or more. The 53 suspensions that were for five days or longer in 2023/2024 were analyzed in more detail. These longer suspensions were mostly given for physical assault of student (27), weapon offenses (15), verbal assault of student (14), and physical assault of staff (9). Fifty-one percent of these longer suspensions were given to female students. The largest percentage of the longer suspensions (70%) was given to senior years students while middle years students received 28% and early years received 2% of these suspensions. Longer suspensions were given to students based on the severity of the incident (e.g., pepper spray attack), the impact on the victim or the number of previous offences.

Chart 6: Length of Suspensions 2023/2024



Summary

- 0.6% of division students received a suspension during the 2023/2024 school year.
- Most students who received a suspension (84%) received only one suspension.
- Fifty percent of all suspensions were for one to two days in length.
- Grade 9 recorded the highest number of suspended students (52) and ungraded students recorded the highest percentage of suspended students (3.4% of ungraded students).
- LAC students, making up 0.65% of the total enrolment, accounted for 4.1% of the suspensions.
- 58.9% of all suspensions were given to male students. The gender difference was greatest in elementary grades where 100% of suspensions went to male students.
- Self-declared Indigenous students, who represent 30.7% of the total enrolment, accounted for 62% of all students suspended.
- Overall, the most frequent reasons for suspension were for physical assault of student (127), misconduct (40), verbal assault of students (35), weapons offenses (32), and physical assault of staff (29).
- 21% of suspensions given to senior years students were for misconduct compared to 12% for middle years and 3% for early years suspensions.
- 53% of suspensions given to early years students were for physical assault of staff compared to 12% of middle years and 7% of senior years suspensions.
- 14% of senior years suspensions were for the use and/or trafficking of illegal substances compared to 2% of middle years and 0% of early years suspensions.
- Students could report up to three ethnic groups. The most commonly reported ethnic category among suspended students was Indigenous. Indigenous students represented 30.7% of all students enrolled in Winnipeg School Division in 2023/2024. The percentage of Indigenous suspended students represented 1.5% of the total enrolment of Indigenous students in 2023/2024.

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 2023/2024 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 2023/2024, of students who were suspended, 47 students did not declare their ethnicity

(22% of all suspended students). Sixty-three (63) students declared one ethnicity with 57% reporting an Indigenous ethnicity followed by Asian (16%). Seventy-two students (72) declared two ethnicities with the majority belonging to the Indigenous ethnic category (94%) followed by European (3%) and Asian (2%). Twenty-seven students (27) declared three ethnicities with a large proportion declaring Indigenous ethnic groups (79%) followed by European (15%).

