

*Report on the Implementation of the
Gun-Free Schools Act
in the States and Outlying Areas*

School Year 2010-11

U.S. Department of Education
Office of Safe and Healthy Students
Washington, D.C.

April 2013

This report was produced under U.S. Department of Education Contract No. ED-04-CO-0091/0003 with Evaluation, Management, and Training (EMT) Associates, Inc. and Macro International Inc., an ICF International Company. Christine Pinckney served as the contracting officer's representative. The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the positions or policies of the Department of Education. This publication includes information about and references to products, services or enterprises from organizations, both public and private. Inclusion of these does not indicate an endorsement of them by the U.S. Department of Education.

U.S. Department of Education

Arne Duncan

Secretary

Office of Safe and Healthy Students

Deborah Delisle

Assistant Secretary

April 2013

This report is in the public domain. Authorization to reproduce it in whole or in part is granted. While permission to reprint this publication is not necessary, the citation should be: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Safe and Healthy Students, *Report on the Implementation of the Gun-Free Schools Act in the States and Outlying Areas for School Year 2010-11*, Washington, D.C.

For questions about this report,

write to: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Safe and Healthy Schools, Potomac Center Plaza, 550 12th Street, SW, 10th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20202-6450;

or **fax** your request to: (202) 245-7868;

or **e-mail** your request to: safeschl@ed.gov;

or **call in** your request: (202) 245-7896.

This report is available on the Department's Web site at:

<http://www.ed.gov/about/reports/annual/gfsa/index.htm>

On request, this publication is available in alternate formats, such as Braille, large print or computer diskette. For more information, please contact the Department's Alternate Format Center (202) 260-0832 or (202) 260-0818.

Contents

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	iv
Introduction.....	1
Organization of the Report.....	1
Data Quality	1
Weapons Types by Grade versus Disciplinary Method Counts.....	2
Data Elements and Tables.....	2
Data Collection and Verification	2
Interpretation of Findings	3
Expulsions for Bringing or Possessing a Firearm.....	3
Expulsions by School Level.....	5
Expulsions by Type of Firearm.....	6
Expulsions by Disciplinary Methods	7
GFSA Report on LEA Compliance	12
Appendix A - The Amended <i>Gun-Free Schools Act</i>	i
Appendix B - 2010-11 <i>GFSA</i> Data Collection File Specifications for States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Outlying Areas	i

Figures

Figure 1	Total enrollment (10m) and GFSA violations per 100,000 students of public elementary and secondary enrollment by school year.	4
Figure 2	Percent change in expulsion rate and percent change in number of GFSA violations for students of public elementary and secondary enrollment by school year	5
Figure 3	Number and percentage of expulsions, by type of school level, 2010-11	5
Figure 4	Number and percentage of students expelled for having brought a firearm to school or possessed a firearm in school, by school level	6
Figure 5	Number (in parentheses) and percentage of expelled for having brought to or possessed a firearm in school, by type of firearm	7
Figure 6	Percentage of Modified and Non-modified Expulsions	8
Figure 7	Percentage of Expulsions Modified, 1998–99 through 2010–11	8
Figure 8	IDEA status as percentage of total modified expulsions, by year.	10
Figure 9	Number of expulsions for having brought to or possessed a firearm in school, separated by IDEA status	10
Figure 10	Proportion of students receiving an expulsion modified to less than one year and alternative educational services (in blue) versus students receiving an expulsion NOT modified to less than one year with alternative educational services (in red).	12

Tables

Table ES-1	Number of students K-12 expelled because they were determined to have brought a firearm to school, by school year, 2000-01 through 2010-11.....	iv
Table ES-2	Number of students expelled for having brought to or possessed a firearm in school, expulsion rate per 100,000 students and changes by number and percent between years.....	v
Table 1	Number of students expelled for having brought to or possessed a firearm in school, by state or outlying area, 2000-01 through 2009–10.....	3
Table 2	Number of students expelled for having brought to or possessed a firearm in school and <i>GFSA</i> violations per 100,000 students of public elementary and secondary enrollment.	3
Table 3	Number of students expelled for having brought to or possessed a firearm in school, expulsion rate per 100,000 students and percent change by state or outlying area, 2005–06 through 2010–11.....	4
Table 4	2010-11 Expulsions by Disciplinary Methods – IDEA vs. Non-IDEA	9
Table 5	Number of students expelled (modified and non) for having brought to or possessed a firearm in school and violations per 100,000 of IDEA or Non-IDEA students enrolled in public K-12 schools.	9
Table 6	Number of students expelled for having brought to or possessed a firearm in school and <i>GFSA</i> violations per 100,000 students of the total public elementary and secondary enrollment, separated by IDEA status.....	12

*Report on the Implementation of the
Gun-Free Schools Act in the States and Outlying Areas
School Year 2010-11*

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**Report on the Implementation of the
Gun-Free Schools Act in the States and Outlying Areas
School Years through 2010-11**

Introduction

The *Gun-Free Schools Act (GFSA)* was reauthorized by Section 4141 of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA)* as amended by the *No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001* (Public Law 107-110). *GFSA* requires that each state or outlying area receiving federal funds under the *ESEA* have a law that requires all local education agencies (LEAs) in its jurisdiction to expel from school for at least one year any student determined to have brought a firearm to school or possessed a firearm in school. Administrators of the Local Education Agencies (LEA) may modify a one-year expulsion on a case-by-case basis. This report presents data from school year 2010-11 and highlights some trends evident from the data in recent school years.

Summary of Findings

The following two tables present information on school expulsions due to students' bringing firearms to, or possessing firearms in, school. Table ES-1 presents the number of students in kindergarten through twelfth grade (K-12) expelled for that reason; data are presented for each school year from 2000–01 through 2010–11. The totals include the full-year expulsions as well as those modified to less than one year and represent data collected from the states, D.C., Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Table ES-1: Number of students K-12 determined to have, or to have brought, a firearm to school, by school year 2000-01 through 2010-11.

School Year	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-2011
Total	2,537	2,554	2,143	2,165	2,591	3,028	2,695	2,607	2,509	2,673	2,761

Source: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools, Data from Survey on Implementation of the *Gun-Free Schools Act* OMB No.1865-0002 and the Department's Education Data Exchange Network (EDEN).

The total number of expulsions is slightly higher than the previous school year with a percent change in expulsion of approximately 2 percent. Table ES-2 portrays the historical trend in number of expelled as well as the rates of students expelled.

Table ES-2: Number of students expelled for having brought to or possessed a firearm in school, expulsion rate per 100,000 students and changes by number and percent between years.

School Year	Students Expelled & Modified	Change in Number from Previous Year	Percent Change in Number from Previous Year	Expulsion Rate (per 100K students)	Percent Change in Expulsion Rate from Previous Year
2010-11	2,761	88	3.3%	5.5	2.1%
2009-10	2,673	164	6.5%	5.4	7.3%
2008-09	2,509	-84	-3.2%	5.0	-3.1%
2007-08	2,607	-88	-3.3%	5.2	-6.0%
2006-07	2,695	-333	-11.0%	5.5	-9.1%
2005-06	3,028	449	17.4%	6.1	18.9%

Source: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools, Data from Survey on Implementation of the *Gun-Free Schools Act* OMB No.1865-0002 and the Department's Education Data Exchange Network (EDEN).

- The reporting entities, including the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, submitted education data under GFSA for 2010-11. The data beginning in 2008-09 excludes the remaining outlying areas. During 2010–11, 2,761 students were expelled for bringing a firearm to school. This equates to an expulsion rate of 5.5 per 100,000 students, an increase of 2.1 percent from the 2009-10 rate.
- All but a few of the reporting entities submitted data segregated by grade level. Of the total 2,342 expulsions where grade level is known, about 55 percent were in senior high schools, 30 percent in junior high schools, and 15 percent in elementary schools.¹ The proportions are almost identical to the previous school year.
- Half of the expulsions (50 percent) involved students determined to have brought handguns to school; 36 percent were for another type of firearm or other destructive device, such as a bomb, explosive or starter pistol; and 12 percent were for rifles or shotguns. Two percent represented incidents involving multiple firearm types.
- Modified expulsions (that is, expulsions reduced to less than one year) equaled 68 percent of the total. The percentage of modified expulsions as compared to non-modified expulsions within the total public elementary and secondary school population remained stable from school year 2007-08 through 2009-10, but increased 11.5% between school years 2009-10 and 2010-11.
- In 2010-11, the percentage of modified expulsions for students with disabilities (*i.e.*, served under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act – IDEA) as compared against the percentage of expulsions among non-IDEA students remained relatively constant.

¹ **Elementary school:** A school classified as elementary by state and local practice and composed of any span of grades not above grade 6. Combined elementary and junior high schools (see definition to follow) are considered junior high schools, and combined elementary and secondary schools (e.g., K-12 buildings) are classified as senior high schools for this report.

Junior high school: A separately organized and administered school intermediate between elementary and senior high schools, which might also be called a middle school, usually includes grades 7, 8 and 9; grades 7 and 8; or grades 6, 7 and 8. Combined elementary and junior high schools are considered junior high schools for this report; combined junior and senior high schools are considered senior high schools (see definition to follow) for this report.

Senior high school: A school offering the final years of school work necessary for graduation, usually including grades 10, 11 and 12 or grades 9, 10, 11, and 12. Combined junior and senior high schools are classified as high schools for this report; combined elementary and secondary schools (e.g., K-12 buildings) are also classified as senior high schools.

-
- Compliance and data quality continue to improve. The states and other areas reported that their LEAs were at least 99 percent compliant in submitting the assurances required under the GFSA.

Conclusion

Expulsions of K-12 students determined to have brought firearms to school in American public schools had decreased by 4 percent between the 2006-07 and 2007–08 school years and decreased by 20 percent in the 2008-09 school year. The 2009-10 and 2010-11 data show an increase in numbers, but there is no indication of whether or not this is a directional trend in the rate of expulsions due to firearm expulsions under the Gun Free Schools Act.



Report on the Implementation of the Gun-Free Schools Act in the States and Outlying Areas School Years through 2010/11

Introduction

The *Gun-Free Schools Act (GFSA)* was reauthorized by Section 4141 of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA)* as amended by the *No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001* (Public Law 107-110). See Appendix A for a copy of the amended *GFSA*. The *GFSA* requires that each state² or outlying area³ receiving federal funds under the *ESEA* have a law that requires all local education agencies (LEAs) in these states and outlying areas to expel from school for at least one year, any student found bringing a firearm⁴ to school or possessing a firearm at school. State laws also must authorize the LEA chief administering officer with the power to modify, in writing, any such expulsion on a case-by-case basis. In addition, the *GFSA* states that the law must be construed so as to be consistent with the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)*.

The *GFSA* requires states and outlying areas to report information about the implementation of the *GFSA* annually to the Secretary of Education. In order to meet this requirement and to monitor compliance with the *GFSA*, the U.S. Department of Education (the Department) requires each state and outlying area to submit an annual report that provides information on student expulsions by various categories. The Department has transitioned its *GFSA* data collection process from paper to electronic submission and LEAs now submit all of their data electronically via the Education Data Exchange Network (EDEN).

Organization of the Report

This report summarizes the 2010–11 data submitted by the states, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia. The report provides a brief synopsis of the overall findings, summarizes the data in graphic and tabular form, and highlights specific data as multi-year trends. The report addresses variables relating to all students and compares IDEA students and non-IDEA students for some variables. The appendices include Appendix A, a copy of the amended *GFSA* and Appendix B, the file specifications for those at the LEAs who enter the data.

Data Quality

The reporting entities continue to improve their data collection processes and quality of reporting. In 2009-10 and 2010-11, all reporting entities submitted their data electronically. Although only two entities submitted incomplete data, a few others could not confirm the accuracy for all items and these instances are noted by the appropriate tables. This is of

² For the purpose of *ESEA* funding, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico are counted as states.

³ The outlying areas referred to in this report are: American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

⁴ The term *firearm* includes handguns, rifles, shotguns, and other firearms. See the data collection instrument in Appendix B for a detailed definition of a firearm.

particular importance when examining national totals as they are comprised of data that are aggregated across all states and territories.

However, considering the above caveats, the overall data quality has improved, particularly during the last four reporting periods. Several LEAs instituted new data verification and quality control measures by the 2010-11 school year. The reporting entities are continuing to address instances where data was inconsistent or incomplete. Furthermore, all but six of the submitting entities reported data for all questions on the instrument and almost 100% of LEAs and schools reported verified data.

Weapons Types by Grade versus Disciplinary Method Counts

There should be a one-to-one correspondence between infractions as counted by the number of weapons by grade, and the number of disciplinary methods employed to deal with those infractions. Upon review, only 5 reporting entities could not match the infraction head count with the discipline method head count. In those cases, reliable data for specific weapons types or grade levels were missing. Therefore, this report excludes those states' data from the cumulative data in the infraction or discipline tables.

Data Elements and Tables

The permitted values in the electronic data collection scheme for discipline method differentiate IDEA from non-IDEA students whereas the counts of weapon by school level do not. The LEAs report disciplinary data by the 7 non-IDEA and 5 IDEA variable names shown in Appendix B. Therefore, given the discipline method differentiation among total public enrollment figures, researchers may calculate disciplinary actions per 100,000 students to look at comparisons between IDEA and non-IDEA rates.

Data Collection and Verification

The Department received reports from most states and outlying areas by March 31, 2012 for the 2010-11 school year, with only a few submitting later. To ensure that the data were reported accurately, the following procedures were followed:

- Each data submission was reviewed for completeness and internal consistency. Review was manually, as well as electronically via data checks within the collection systems.
- Only 5 states had an identified problem with their 2010-11 submission in terms of data inconsistencies for weapons or grade levels. This was an improvement over the 2009-10 school year, when 7 states had issues with their data submissions. All but 6 reporting entities submitted complete data in every category.
- In all cases, the Department contacted the reporting entities to obtain a correction or clarification of the data submitted and to address outstanding questions.

Interpretation of Findings

Expulsions for Bringing or Possessing a Firearm

In 2010-11, all but four reporting entities provided reliable data on the number of students expelled for bringing or possessing a firearm, for a total of 2,761 expulsions. (See Table 1)

Table 1: Number of students expelled for having brought to or possessed a firearm in school, by state or outlying area, 2000-01 through 2009-10.

School Year ⁵	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Total	2,537	2,554	2,143	2,165	2,591	3,028	2,695	2,607	2,509	2,673	2,761

Source: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools, OMB No.1865-0002: *Gun-Free Schools Act Report* and EDEN data.

The reported number of expulsions as a percentage of total enrollment is 5.5 per 100,000 of enrollment (see Table 2). Of the 54 entities reporting expulsions, 23 reported an increase in the number of expulsions from school years 2009-10 to 2010-11.

The GFSA data pertains to enrollment in public elementary and secondary schools. The violations per 100,000 students enrolled dipped in 2008-09 school year but subsequently climbed slightly. Table 2 and Figure 1 illustrate these trends.

Table 2: Number of students expelled for having brought to or possessed a firearm in school and GFSA violations per 100,000 students of public elementary and secondary enrollment.

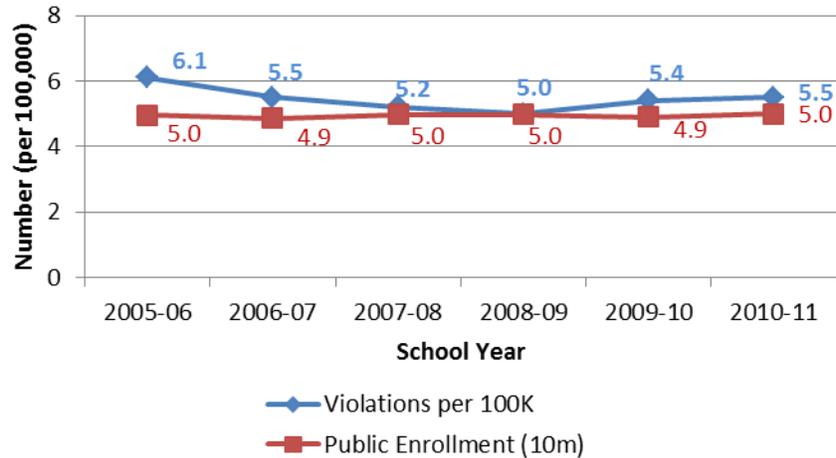
School Year ⁶	Number of students expelled	Public elementary and secondary enrollment (Fall)	GFSA violations per 100,000 of enrollment
2010-11	2,761	49,866,700	5.5
2009-10	2,673	49,312,000	5.4
2008-09	2,509	49,686,687	5.0
2007-08	2,607	49,752,707	5.2
2006-07	2,695	48,622,096	5.5
2005-06	3,028	49,617,510	6.1

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, The NCES Common Core of Data (CCD), "State Nonfiscal Survey of Public Elementary/Secondary Education, "1988-89 through 2008-09. See <http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d05/> for enrollment data.

Source: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools (OSDFS), data from Education Data Exchange Network (EDEN) and GFSA data collection instrument entitled "Gun-Free Schools Act Report," OMB #1865-0002 for number of students expelled

Note: GFSA=Gun-Free Schools Act

Figure 1: Total enrollment (10m) and GFSA violations per 100,000 students of public elementary and secondary enrollment by school year.



Source: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools, OMB No.1865-0002: *Gun-Free Schools Act Report* and EDEN data

Table 3 and Figure 2 illustrate that the percent change in rate of students expelled has increased by about 2 percent since the 2009-10 school year. The trend line for percent change in rate has varied by more than 20 percent, however, since the 2005-06 school year.

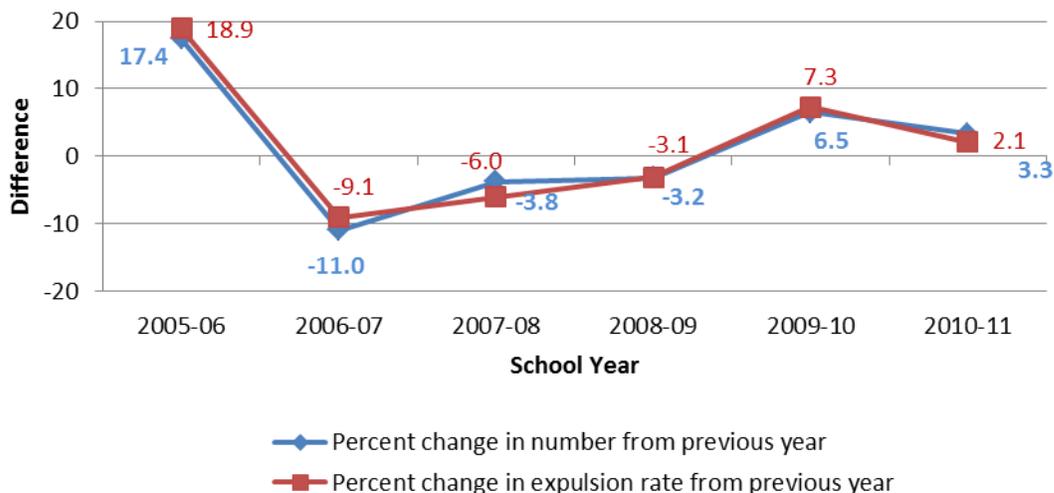
Table 3: Number of students expelled for having brought to or possessed a firearm in school, expulsion rate per 100,000 students and percent change by state or outlying area, 2005–06 through 2010–11.

School Year ⁷	Number of students expelled	Percent change in number	Public elementary and secondary enrollment (Fall)	GFSA violations per 100,000 of enrollment	Percent change in rate
2010-11	2,761	3.3	49,866,700	5.5	2.1
2009-10	2,673	6.5	49,312,000	5.4	7.3
2008-09	2,509	-3.2	49,686,687	5.0	-3.1
2007-08	2,607	-3.3	49,752,707	5.2	-6.0
2006-07	2,695	-11.0	48,622,096	5.5	-9.1
2005-06	3,028	17.4	49,617,510	6.1	18.9

Source: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools, OMB No.1865-0002: *Gun-Free Schools Act Report* and EDEN data

⁷ Totals include data from the 50 states, District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands but do not include data from American Samoa, Guam, and Northern Marianas, as data from those outlying areas were not consistently attainable.

Figure 2: Percent change in expulsion rate and percent change in number of GFSA violations for students of public elementary and secondary enrollment by school year.

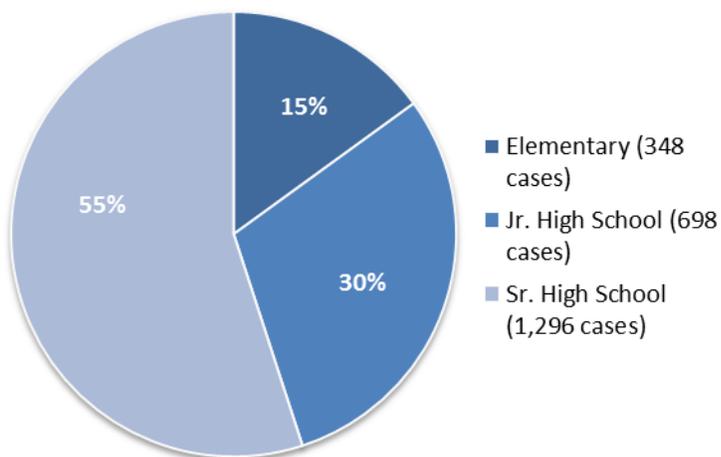


Source: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools, OMB No.1865-0002: *Gun-Free Schools Act* Report and EDEN data

Expulsions by School Level

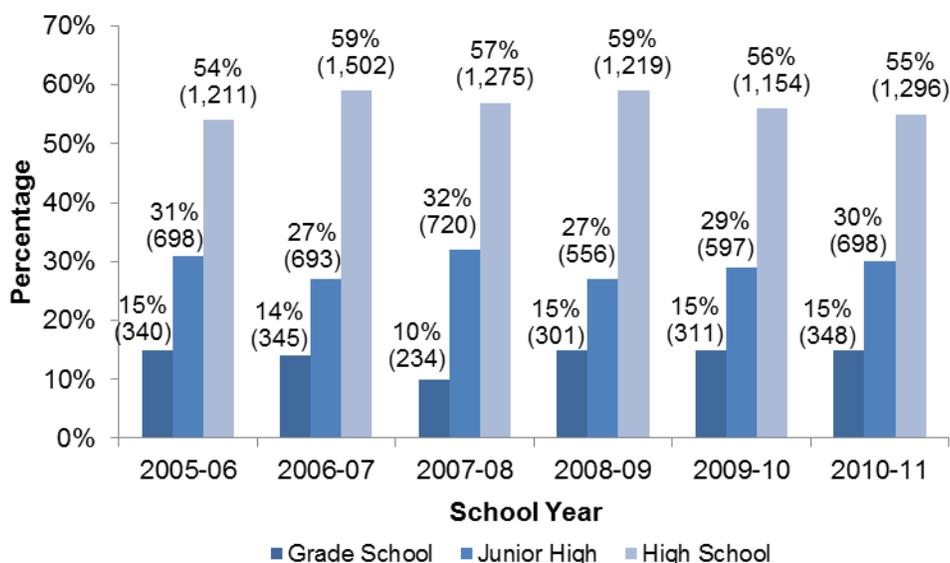
Although most entities in 2010-11 provided data on total firearm expulsions, five cited issues with their school level data and were not confident of the data’s accuracy for grade level and/or weapon type. Therefore, those entities’ data are not included here. Of the remaining 2,342 expulsions reported with reliable grade-level data, 55 percent of expulsions were in high school, 30 percent were in junior high school, and 15 percent were in elementary school. These are nearly identical to the percentage distribution in 2009-10. (See Figure 3)

Figure 3: Number and percentage of expulsions, by school level, 2010–11



Since the 2005-06 school year, most expulsions have occurred at the high school level. Expulsions for elementary school students returned to their historical level of about 15 percent of the total after a dip in 2007-08, as shown in Figure 4 below.

Figure 4: Number and percentage of students expelled for having brought a firearm to school or possessed a firearm in school, by school level.



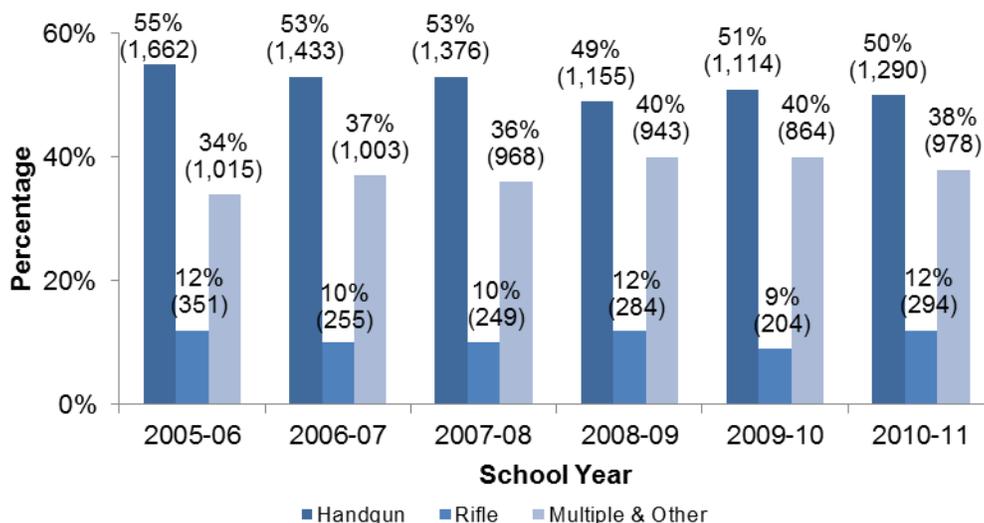
Source: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools, OMB No.1865-0002: *Gun-Free Schools Act Report* and EDEN data

Expulsions by Type of Firearm

Of the 2,562 expulsions in 2010–11 reported by weapon type, about 50 percent (1,290) involved handguns; 36 percent (919) involved other types of firearms (such as bombs, explosives and starter pistols); 12 percent (294) involved rifles or shotguns; and 2 percent (59) involved multiple weapons types. Those percentages are comparable to the previous year.

The proportions of various firearms continue along the same trend evident since the 2005-06 school year. Most incidents of students expelled for bringing or possessing a firearm in school have involved handguns and rifles/shotguns remain the smallest proportion. Instances involving multiple weapon types are included with other weapon types in the following chart. (See Figure 5).

Figure 5: Number (in parentheses) and percentage of expelled for having brought to or possessed a firearm in school, by type of firearm⁸.



Source: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools, OMB No.1865-0002: *Gun-Free Schools Act Report* and EDEN data

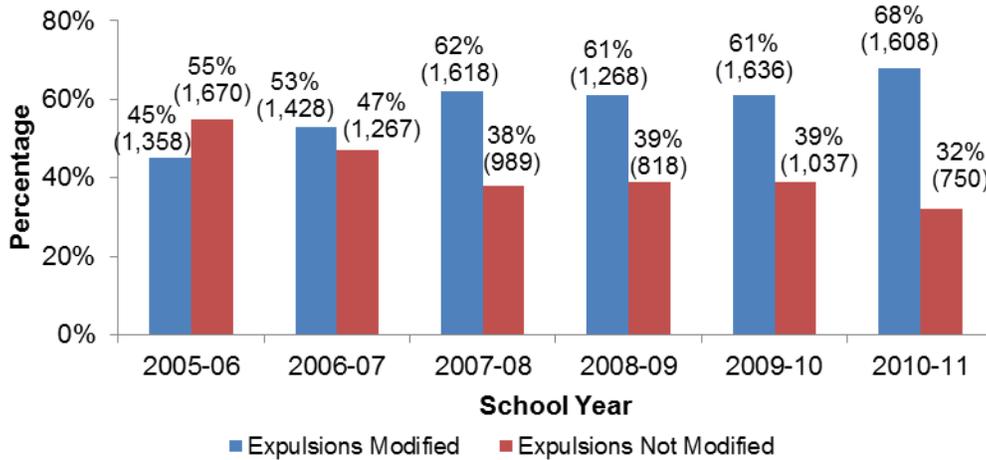
Expulsions by Disciplinary Methods

The *GFSA* allows the chief administering officer in a school district to modify, in writing, any expulsion for a firearm violation on a case-by-case basis (for example, by shortening the expulsion requirement to less than one year). This provision allows the chief administering officer to take unique circumstances into account, as well as to ensure that *IDEA* and *GFSA* requirements are implemented consistently. The *GFSA* reporting requirements instruct the states to report the number of students receiving modified expulsions as well as the number of modifications granted to students with disabilities.

Five submitting entities reported incomplete or unverified data by disciplinary method, so their data were not included in this analysis. From the 2007-08 through the 2008-09 school years, the percentage of modified expulsions as compared to non-modified expulsions within the total public elementary and secondary school population had steadied to an approximate 60/40 proportion. This ratio changed during 2010-11, when modified expulsions accounted for 68 percent of all the expulsions whereas non-modified expulsions equaled approximately 32 percent. This is the highest historical percentage of modified expulsions since the 2005-06 school year. (See Figure 6).

⁸ This total number of expulsions does not match the total from the individual States, as some States did not report expulsions by type of firearm.

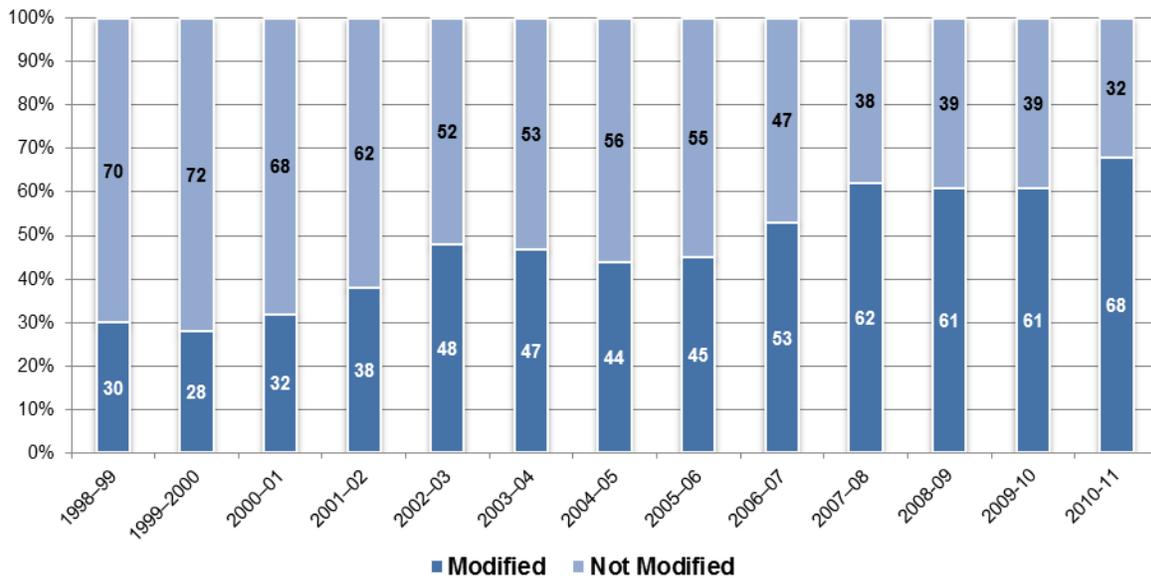
Figure 6: Percentage of Modified and Non-modified Expulsions



Source: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools, OMB No.1865-0002: *Gun-Free Schools Act Report* and EDEN data

Since the 1999-00 school year, the percentage of modified to non-modified expulsions has generally increased with the exceptions of the mid-2000s. Modified expulsions became the larger proportion with the 2005-06 school year. Slightly less than a third of those expelled from the 2010-2011 student population received a full one-year expulsion, as illustrated in Figure 7.

Figure 7: Percentage of Expulsions Modified, 1998–99 through 2010–11



Source: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools, OMB No.1865-0002: *Gun-Free Schools Act Report* and EDEN data

The LEA has some discretion as to the type of modification a student receives. The following Tables 4 and 5 show the student counts and percentages of disciplinary actions for students involved with firearms by IDEA and non-IDEA categories.

Table 4: 2010-11 Expulsions by Disciplinary Methods – IDEA vs. Non-IDEA

		Count	Percentage
IDEA Disciplinary Methods	Expulsion modified to less than one year, receiving educational services	142	27%
	One year expulsion not modified, receiving educational services	137	27%
	No action	11	2%
	Other disciplinary action	222	43%
	Other removal (such as death, withdrawal, or incarceration)	6	1%
IDEA Total		518	22%
Non-IDEA Disciplinary Methods	One year expulsion not modified, receiving educational services	211	11%
	Expulsion modified to less than one year, receiving educational services	225	12%
	Expulsion modified to less than one year, not receiving educational services	402	22%
	One year expulsion not modified, not receiving educational services	404	22%
	No action	14	1%
	Other disciplinary action	560	30%
	Other removal (such as death, withdrawal, or incarceration)	33	2%
Non-IDEA Total		1,849	78%
Grand Total		2,367	

Source: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools, OMB No.1865-0002: *Gun-Free Schools Act Report* and EDEN data

Table 5: Number of students expelled (modified and non) for having brought to or possessed a firearm in school and violations per 100,000 of IDEA or Non-IDEA students enrolled in public K-12 schools.

School Year	IDEA Students expelled	IDEA Population	IDEA Per 100,000 of IDEA population	Non-IDEA Students expelled	Non-IDEA Population	Non-IDEA Per 100,000 of Non-IDEA population	Total
2010-11	518	5,450,076	9.5	1,849	44,416,624	4.2	2,367
2009-10	618	6,410,560	9.6	2,055	42,901,440	4.8	2,673
2008-09	380	5,890,590	6.5	1,707	43,944,197	3.9	2,087
2007-08	449	6,003,888	7.4	2,158	43,748,819	4.9	2,607
2006-07	343	6,789,593	5.1	977	44,124,002	2.2	1,320
2005-06	373	5,995,568	6.2	979	42,953,805	2.3	1,352

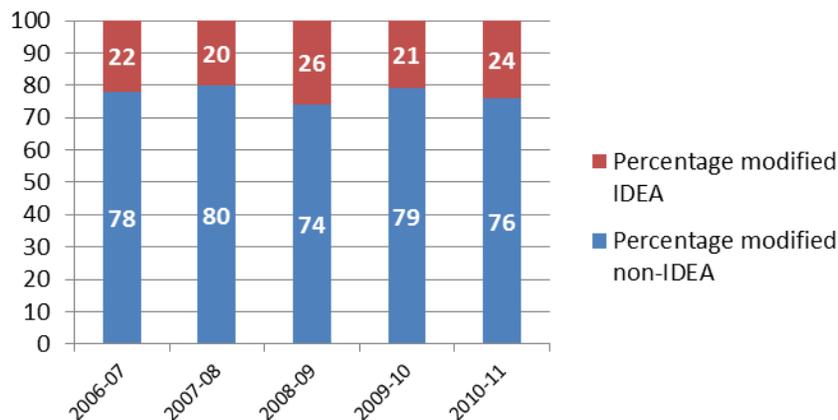
Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, The NCES Common Core of Data (CCD), "State Nonfiscal Survey of Public Elementary/Secondary Education, "1988-89 through 2010-11. See <http://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d05/> for enrollment data.

Source: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools (OSDFS), data from Education Data Exchange Network (EDEN) and GFSA data collection instrument entitled "Gun-Free Schools Act Report," OMB #1865-0002 for number of students expelled

As Table 5 shows, the rate of IDEA student expulsions within the IDEA population is higher than the rate of non-IDEA student expulsions within the non-IDEA population. This has been consistently the case since the 2006-07 school year.

In 2010-11, of the 1,608 modified expulsions, 381 (24 percent) were for students considered disabled under Section 602(a)(1) of IDEA. The number of modified expulsions for non-IDEA students was 1,227 (76 percent). (See Figure 8).

Figure 8: IDEA status as percentage of total modified expulsions, by year.

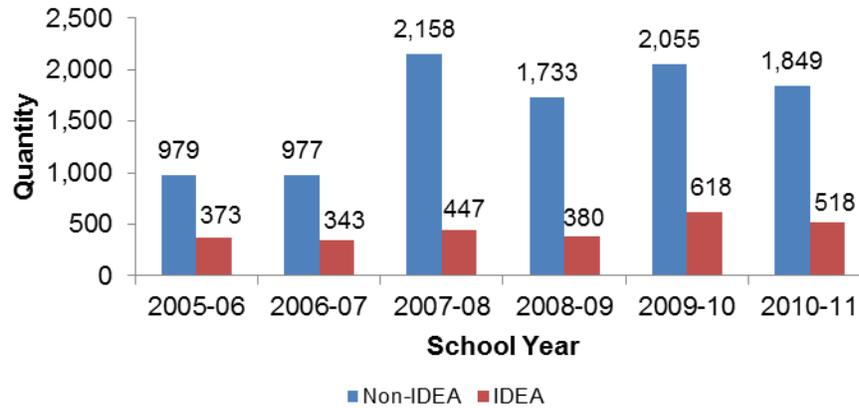


Source: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools (OSDFS), data from Education Data Exchange Network (EDEN) and GFSA data collection instrument entitled "Gun-Free Schools Act Report," OMB #1865-0002.

Since the 2005-06 school year, the IDEA student expulsions have been less than a quarter of the total expulsions. In 2010-11, the number of IDEA student expulsions equaled 518 as

compared to 1,849 expulsions for non-IDEA students. Figure 9 below illustrates the relative number of non-IDEA and IDEA expulsions.

Figure 9: Number of expulsions for having brought to or possessed a firearm in school, separated by IDEA status.



Source: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools, OMB No.1865-0002: *Gun-Free Schools Act Report* and EDEN data

Table 6 illustrates the relative rates of IDEA and non-IDEA student expulsions within the total U.S. public school student population. Among the 2010-11 school year population of 49,866,700 public school k-12 students, about 1.0 IDEA students per 100,000 total students received firearms-related disciplinary actions as compared to 3.7 non-IDEA students per 100,000 students.

Table 6: Number of students expelled for having brought to or possessed a firearm in school and *GFSA* violations per 100,000 students of the total public elementary and secondary enrollment, separated by IDEA status.

School Year	Total Student Population	IDEA Students expelled	IDEA Per 100,000 of total population	Non-IDEA Students expelled	Non-IDEA Per 100,000 of total population	Total disciplinary actions
2010-11	49,866,700	518	1.0	1,849	3.7	2,367
2009-10	49,312,000	618	1.3	2,055	4.3	2,673
2008-09	49,686,687	380	.76	1,707	3.5	2,087
2007-08	49,752,707	449	.89	2,158	4.3	2,607
2006-07	50,913,595	343	.67	977	1.9	1,320
2005-06	48,949,373	373	.76	979	2	1,352

Source: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools, OMB No.1865-0002: *Gun-Free Schools Act Report* and EDEN data

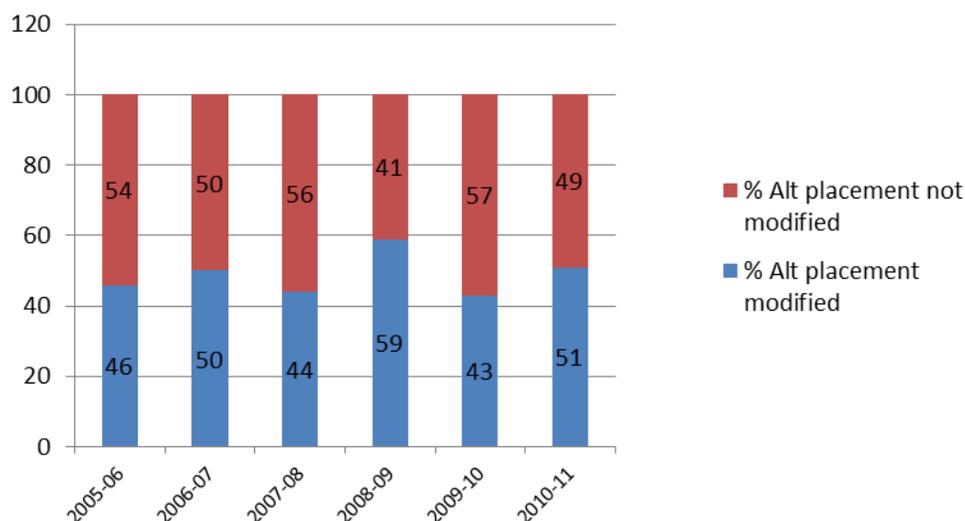
Referrals to Alternative Educational Services

The *GFSA* allows local officials to refer expelled students to alternative educational services. The alternative educational services are also referred to as “alternative placement.” Approximately half of the state or territory governments for the 2010-11 school year encourage LEAs to provide expelled students with alternative educational services and an additional 20 percent *require* them to provide those services. Slightly more than half the reporting entities may also receive state or territory funds for providing alternative educational services.

During the 2010-11 school year, 367 students with expulsions modified to less than one year also received alternative educational services. Of the students receiving an unmodified (one year) expulsion, 348 students also received alternative educational services.

Figure 10 illustrates the relative percentages of students receiving modified or non-modified expulsions with alternative educational services. The proportions were almost equal during the 2010-11 school year.

Figure 10: Proportion of students receiving an expulsion modified to less than one year and alternative educational services (in blue) versus students receiving an expulsion NOT modified to less than one year with alternative educational services (in red).



GFSA Report on LEA Compliance

Beginning with the 1999–2000 school year, the Department asked states and outlying areas to report information regarding the level of LEA compliance with the state law that requires one-year expulsions for students who bring a firearm to school, or possess a firearm at school. During 2010-11 school year, most of the states and outlying areas indicated that all of their LEAs, and the schools within them, had submitted *GFSA* reports.

The Department also asks states and outlying areas to indicate the percentage of LEAs that reported an expulsion. The data for the percentage of LEAs reporting an expulsion can be misleading as some states have many LEAs while some states have only one or few LEAs. For example, a state with one LEA that reported one violation would also have 100% of LEAs reporting an offense. Although the absolute percentages are questionable (15% average), the average should be compared across years because the number of LEAs within a state does not significantly vary in that time. The average percentages of LEAs reporting a firearms violation have not varied significantly from the 2005-06 to the 2010-11 school years.

Appendix A - The Amended *Gun-Free Schools Act*

SEC. 4141. GUN-FREE REQUIREMENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE**– This subpart may be cited as the Gun-Free Schools Act.

(b) **REQUIREMENTS**–

(1) **IN GENERAL**– Each State receiving Federal funds under any title of this Act shall have in effect a State law requiring local educational agencies to expel from school for a period of not less than 1 year a student who is determined to have brought a firearm to a school, or to have possessed a firearm at a school, under the jurisdiction of local educational agencies in that State, except that such State law shall allow the chief administering officer of a local educational agency to modify such expulsion requirement for a student on a case-by-case basis if such modification is in writing.

(2) **CONSTRUCTION**– Nothing in this subpart shall be construed to prevent a State from allowing a local educational agency that has expelled a student from such a student's regular school setting from providing educational services to such student in an alternative setting.

(3) **DEFINITION**– For the purpose of this section, the term 'firearm' has the same meaning given such term in section 921(a) of title 18, United States Code.

(c) **SPECIAL RULE**– The provisions of this section shall be construed in a manner consistent with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

(d) **REPORT TO STATE**– Each local educational agency requesting assistance from the State educational agency that is to be provided from funds made available to the State under any title of this Act shall provide to the State, in the application requesting such assistance–

(1) an assurance that such local educational agency is in compliance with the State law required by subsection (b); and

(2) a description of the circumstances surrounding any expulsions imposed under the State law required by subsection (b), including–

(A) the name of the school concerned;

(B) the number of students expelled from such school; and

(C) the type of firearms concerned.

(e) **REPORTING**– Each State shall report the information described in subsection (d) to the Secretary on an annual basis.

(f) **DEFINITION**– For the purpose of subsection (d), the term 'school' means any setting that is under the control and supervision of the local educational agency for the purpose of student activities approved and authorized by the local educational agency.

(g) **EXCEPTION**– Nothing in this section shall apply to a firearm that is lawfully stored inside a locked vehicle on school property, or if it is for activities approved and authorized by the local educational agency and the local educational agency adopts appropriate safeguards to ensure student safety.

(h) **POLICY REGARDING CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM REFERRAL**–

(1) **IN GENERAL**– No funds shall be made available under any title of this Act to any local educational agency unless such agency has a policy requiring referral to the criminal justice or juvenile delinquency system of any student who brings a firearm or weapon to a school served by such agency.

(2) **DEFINITION**– For the purpose of this subsection, the term 'firearm' and 'school' has the same meaning given to such term by section 921(a) of title 18, United States Code.

Appendix B - 2010-11 *GFSA* Data Collection File Specifications for States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Outlying Areas

Appendix B contains a copy of the cover page and chart of permitted values excerpted from the 2009–10 *GFSA* File Specifications for submission of data through EDEN and the full EMAPs questionnaire for the 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. The full file specifications for the 2009–10 school year can be downloaded from <http://www.ed.gov/about/inits/ed/edfacts/file-specifications.html>.





U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Education Data Exchange Network (EDEN)

**N086 - Students Involved with
Firearms File Specifications**

**Version 7.1
SY 2010-11**

November 2011

Table 4.2-1: Students Involved with Firearms, SEA Data Record

Data Element Name	Start Position	Length	Type	Pop	Definition / Comments	Permitted Values
File Record Number	1	10	Number	M	A sequential number assigned by the State that is unique to each row entry within the file.	
ID 559 FIPS State Code	11	2	String	M	The two-digit Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS) for the state, District of Columbia, and the possessions and freely associated areas of the United States (e.g., Puerto Rico).	For a list of valid FIPS State Codes, refer to the <i>EDFacts</i> Workbook.
ID 570 State Agency Number	13	2	String	M	A number used to uniquely identify state agencies. This ID cannot be updated through this file.	01 – State Education Agency
Filler	15	14	String	M	Leave filler field blank.	
Filler	29	20	String	M	Leave filler field blank.	
Table Name	49	20	String	M	The unduplicated number of students who were involved in an incident involving a firearm.	CHLINVWFRARM
REVISED! Weapon	69	50	String	A	The type of weapon.	HANDGUNS – Handguns RIFLESHOTGUN – Rifles / Shotguns MULTIPLE – More than one type of weapon or firearm OTHER – See guidance 2.0
Discipline Method (Firearms–not IDEA)	119	50	String	A	The method used to discipline students who are not children with disabilities (IDEA) involved in firearms and other outcomes of firearms incidents.	Revised! EXPNOTMODNOALT – One year expulsion and no educational services EXPMODALT - Expulsion modified to less than one year with educational services EXPMODNOALT – Expulsion modified to less than one year without educational services EXPALT – One year expulsion and educational services REMOVEOTHER – Other reasons such as death, withdrawal, or incarceration OTHERDISACTION – Another type of disciplinary action NOACTION – No disciplinary action taken

Data Element Name	Start Position	Length	Type	Pop	Definition / Comments	Permitted Values
						Missing
Grade Level (Basic)	169	15	String	A	The grade level (primary instructional level) of students.	KG – Kindergarten 01 – Grade 1 02 – Grade 2 03 – Grade 3 04 – Grade 4 05 – Grade 5 06 – Grade 6 07 – Grade 7 08 – Grade 8 09 – Grade 9 10 – Grade 10 11 – Grade 11 12 – Grade 12 UG – Ungraded MISSING
Discipline Method (Firearms-IDEA)	184	50	String	A	The methods used to discipline students who are children with disabilities (IDEA) involved in firearms and other outcomes of firearms incidents.	Revised! EXPMOD – Expulsion modified to less than one year with educational services under IDEA EXPNOTMOD – One year expulsion with educational services under IDEA OTHERDISACTION – Another type of disciplinary action REMOVEOTHER – Other reasons such as death, withdrawal, or incarceration NOACTION – No disciplinary action Missing
Total Indicator	234	1	String	M	An indicator that defines the count level (i.e., detail level, subtotal level or total of the education unit).	N – Specifies detail level
Explanation	235	200	String	O	Text field for state use.	
Student Count	435	10	Number	M	If the count provided is either a subtotal or total of the education unit, it must be equal to or greater than the sum of its parts.	
Carriage Return / Line Feed (CRLF)	445	1		M		



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Education Data Exchange Network (EDEN)

**N131 – LEA End of School Year
Status File Specifications**

**Version 7.1
SY 2010-11**

July 2011

Table 4.2-1: LEA End of School Year Status File, LEA Data Record

Data Element Name	Start Position	Length	Type	Pop	Definition / Comments	Permitted Values
File Record Number	1	10	Number	M	A sequential number assigned by the SEA that is unique to each row entry within the file.	
DG 559 FIPS State Code	11	2	String	M	The two-digit Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) Code for the State, District of Columbia, and the possessions and freely associated areas of the United States (e.g., Puerto Rico).	For a list of valid FIPS State Codes, refer to the ED Facts Workbook.
DG 570 State Agency Number	13	2	String	M	A number used to uniquely identify state agencies. This ID cannot be updated through this file.	01 – State Education Agency
DG 4 State LEA Identifier	15	14	String	M	The identifier assigned to a local education agency (LEA) by the state education agency (SEA). Also known as State LEA ID. This data element cannot be updated through this file.	
Filler	29	20	String	M	Leave filler field blank.	
Filler	49	6	String	M	Leave filler field blank.	
Filler	55	15	String	M	Leave filler field blank.	
DG 614 REAP Alternative Funding Status	70	15	String	M	An indication that the local education agency (LEA) notified the state of the LEA's intention to use REAP-Flex Alternative Uses of Funding Authority during the school year as specified in the Title VI, Section 6211 of ESEA, as amended.	YES NO NA – Not Applicable MISSING
Filler	85	15	String	M	Leave filler field blank.	
Filler	100	15	String	M	Leave filler field blank.	
Revised DG 524 Integrated Technology Status	115	15	String	M	An indication of whether the district has effectively and fully integrated technology, as defined by the state.	DEV– Developing APPR– Approaching MEETS– Meets FULL– Fully integrated NOTREQ – Not Required to Report MISSING
Filler	130	6	String	M	Leave filler field blank.	
Filler	136	9	String	M	Leave filler field blank.	
Filler	145	6	String	M	Leave filler field blank.	
Filler	151	15	String	M	Leave filler field blank.	
Explanation	166	200	String	O	Text field for state use.	

Data Element Name	Start Position	Length	Type	Pop	Definition / Comments	Permitted Values
Carriage Return / Line Feed (CRLF)	366	1		M		



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Education Data Exchange Network (EDEN)

**N132 – School End of School Year
Status File Specifications**

**Version 7.0
SY 2010-11**

May 2011

Table 4.2-1: School End of School Year Status File School Data Record

Data Element Name	Start Position	Length	Type	Pop	Definition / Comments	Permitted Values
File Record Number	1	10	Number	M	A sequential number assigned by the SEA that is unique to each row entry within the file.	
DG 559 FIPS State Code	11	2	String	M	The two-digit Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS) Code for the State, District of Columbia, and the possessions and freely associated areas of the United States (e.g., Puerto Rico).	For a list of valid FIPS State Codes, refer to the ED Facts Workbook.
DG 570 State Agency Number	13	2	String	M	A number used to uniquely identify state agencies. This ID cannot be updated through this file.	01 – State Education Agency
DG 4 State LEA Identifier	15	14	String	M	The identifier assigned to a local education agency (LEA) by the state education agency (SEA). Also known as State LEA ID. This data element cannot be updated through this file.	
DG 5 State School Identifier	29	20	String	M	The identifier assigned to a school by the state education agency (SEA). Also known as the States School Identification Number. This ID cannot be updated through this file.	
Filler	49	15	String	M	Leave filler field blank.	
Filler	64	15	String	M	Leave filler field blank.	
DG 31 School Poverty Percentage	79	6	Decimal	M	The percentage of students in the school identified as economically disadvantaged according to the state definition. Also known as School Poverty Level.	Percentage – Numeric value of (5, 4), with 100 percent represented as 1.0000.
DG 56 Economically Disadvantaged Students	85	6	Number	M	The unduplicated number of students who met the state criteria for classification as economically disadvantaged according to the state definition.	
Filler	91	15	String	M	Leave filler field blank.	
Filler	106	15	String	M	Leave filler field blank.	
Filler	121	15	String	M	Leave filler field blank.	
Filler	136	15	String	M	Leave filler field blank.	
REVISED! DG 693 School Improvement Funds Status	151	15	String	O	An indication of whether the school received funds under Section 1003 of ESEA, as amended.	AONLY - Section 1003(a) only GONLY - Section 1003(g) only BOTH - Both Section 1003(a) and Section 1003(g) NOFUNDS - Eligible but no funds NOTELIGIBLE - Not eligible for funds

Data Element Name	Start Position	Length	Type	Pop	Definition / Comments	Permitted Values
DG 694(a) School Improvement Funds Allocation – 1003(a)	166	15	String	O	The funding that the school received for school improvement under Section 1003(a) of ESEA, as amended.	Dollars (to the nearest dollar)
DG 694(g) School Improvement Funds Allocation – 1003(g)	181	15	String	O	The funding that the school received for school improvement under Section 1003(g) of ESEA, as amended.	Dollars (to the nearest dollar)
Explanation	196	200	String	O	Text field for state use.	
Carriage Return / Line Feed (CRLF)	396	1		M		