

*Statewide Report on  
School Safety and  
Discipline Data  
2007-2008*



**Florida Department of Education  
Division of Public Schools  
Bureau of Family and Community Outreach  
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This product was developed by the State of Florida, Department of Education, Division of Public Schools, Bureau of Family and Community Outreach, Office of Safe Schools.

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## INTRODUCTION

In public schools across America, students thrive and learn in an environment that is free of crime and violence. Ensuring the safety of students within Florida schools is as important as providing students with a quality education. Therefore, one of the goals of the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) is to develop and implement safety and security measures that will assist schools in providing safe and secure learning environments. One of the tools developed to help districts with data assessment and evaluation when planning for school safety is the Statewide Report on School Safety and Discipline Data.

Since the 1995-1996 school year, the FDOE has annually collected data on 21 incidents (now 22 incidents) of crime, violence, and other serious offenses through the ***School Environmental Safety Incident Reporting (SESIR) System***. Collected through Survey 5 of the DOE Automated Student Information System, and commonly identified as SESIR, this system collects incident data that occur on school grounds, on school transportation, and at off-campus, school-sponsored events during any 24-hour period, 365 days a year. Incidents are reported to SESIR whether individuals are students, non-students, or if the offender is unknown. SESIR data are reported statewide and by district within the *Florida Statewide Report on School Safety and Discipline*. FDOE also collects annual data on the types and number of discipline actions administered when students violate school or district rules. The three reported discipline actions are In-School Suspensions, Out-of-School Suspensions, and Expulsions. Data are reported statewide and by district.

Specifically, this report summarizes the most recent three years of SESIR and Discipline data that were reported to DOE by school districts in Florida. Under State totals, the following are provided:

- “SESIR Totals” includes student population, raw totals of each of the 22 incidents as well as the number of incidents per 1,000 students. (This provides a means of standardizing for comparisons with state average and other districts.)
- The “SESIR Incident Summaries” includes "Time of Incidents," "Persons Involved," "Location of Incidents," and "Number and Percent of Schools Reporting No SESIR Incidents."
- “SESIR Totals: Trends by Categories” includes a trend analysis of the SESIR data over a period of three school years for incidents grouped in categories.
- Discipline Data includes data for the past three school years, 2005-2006, 2006-2007, and 2007-2008, disaggregated by gender and race for each of the school levels: elementary, middle and high. The report identifies the total number of disciplinary actions per school level, gender and race, as well as the number and percent of individual students who have been suspended or expelled one or more times. This allows for comparisons among levels and by gender and race for further analysis.

The student population numbers that are provided in this report are from *Survey 5 Demographics* and are a count of total student membership (at the time of reporting) in a given school year. The SESIR and Discipline data provided and discussed are also collected in *Survey 5* and are a cumulative record of all the incidents in the respective years.

### SESIR Incidents and Related Elements

The SESIR system collects data on 22 incidents of crime, violence, and other serious offenses that occur in schools or on school grounds, transportation, or at school-sponsored events. Below, the incidents have been divided into categories based on incident characteristics.

#### ⇒ Violent Acts Against Persons

1. *Homicide*
2. *Sexual Battery*
3. *Robbery*
4. *Battery*
5. *Kidnapping*

#### ⇒ Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drugs

6. *Drug Use/Possession Excluding Alcohol*
7. *Drug Sale/Distribution*
8. *Alcohol*
9. *Tobacco*

#### ⇒ Property

10. *Breaking and Entering/Burglary*
11. *Larceny/Theft*
12. *Arson*
13. *Vandalism*

#### ⇒ Harassment

14. *Threat/Intimidation*
15. *Sexual Harassment*
16. *Bullying/Harassment\**

#### ⇒ Other Non-Violent Incidents

17. *Sexual Offenses (Other)*
18. *Trespassing*
19. *Other Major*

#### ⇒ Incidents Not Categorized

20. *Fighting*
21. *Disruption on Campus – Major*
22. *Weapons Possession*

\* Incident totals for Bullying/Harassment data not reported for 06-07.

Annually since the 1998-1999 school year, SESIR incident definitions have been revised to better categorize incidents, to assist schools in correctly identifying appropriate incidents, and to provide additional examples and non-examples of the 22 incidents.

Additionally, SESIR also collects six data elements that may be associated with the incidents. These elements describe whether external factors from one of the following areas are related to the incident:

- Gang-Related
- Alcohol-Related
- Bullying-Related
- Weapon-Related
- Hate-Related
- Drug-Related

These related elements allow SESIR incidents to be described more comprehensively. For example, during a *Battery* incident in which a knife was used and the student was also under the influence of alcohol, the incident would be reported as *Battery, Weapon-related and Alcohol-related*. In addition to the six related elements, other specific details about SESIR incidents are also collected. These include the following:

- *Type of Offender*—Student or Non-student.
- *Time of Day*—During School Hours or After School Hours.
- *Type of Weapon Involved*—Handgun; Knife; Rifle or Shotgun; Other Firearm; Other Weapon; or Unknown Weapon.

Collectively, these descriptive elements provide an inclusive picture of the various types of incidents that occur in schools.

This coding method provides a more accurate depiction of the related elements that often occur with SESIR incidents. The weapon-related incidents also ask for schools to enter a description of the weapon. It is especially important that guns or other firearms are accurately coded as this information is used to substantiate the Federal Gun-Free Schools violations for the federal *Gun-Free Schools Act* annual report.

The following are the weapon definitions schools use as part of the Comprehensive Management Information System:

Code	Code Definition
F	Firearm, Other
H	Handgun
R	Rifle or Shotgun
K	Knife
O	Other Weapon



