

***Statewide Report on
School Safety
and
Discipline Data
2000-2001***



**Florida Department of Education
Division of Public Schools and Community Education
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INTRODUCTION

In public schools across America, students thrive and learn in schools that are free of crime and violence, in classrooms that are well-disciplined, and in surroundings that reflect safety. With this in mind, one of the primary goals of the Florida Department of Education (DOE) is to develop and implement safety and security measures that will help schools continue to provide safe and secure learning environments. One of the measures developed to help districts with data assessments and evaluations during their planning for school safety is this publication of the 1998-1999, 1999-2000, and 2000-2001 Statewide Report on School Safety and Discipline Data.

Data play a pivotal role in planning for school safety because they can assist in identifying potential or existing safety problems within schools. Since the 1995-1996 school year, DOE has annually collected data on 21 incidents of crime, violence, and disruptive behaviors through the *School Environmental Safety Incident Reporting (SESIR)* system. SESIR, as it is commonly identified, collects data on incidents that occur on school grounds, on school transportation, and off-campus, school-sponsored events, during any 24-hour period, 365 days per year. Incidents are reported to SESIR even if individuals other than students are involved or if the offender is unknown. DOE also collects annual data on six types of discipline actions that are administered when students violate school or district rules. The three main disciplinary actions described in this report are: In-School Suspensions, Out-of-School Suspensions, and Expulsions.

This publication contains tables and figures that summarize the 1998-1999, 1999-2000, and 2000-2001 SESIR and Discipline Data that were reported to DOE by the 67 Florida school districts. The first section of this report analyzes the statewide totals and provides a trend analysis of the SESIR data over this period. This section also includes Discipline data from the same school years. The second section of the report contains a comprehensive data profile of the SESIR and Discipline Data for each of the 67 school districts in Florida.

Student Population

The student population numbers are taken from *Survey 5* demographics. This information is collected in August of each year and provides a cumulative count of all the students served in a given school year. The *Survey 5* population data for the 1998-1999 school year are current, as of February 2000, the 1999-2000 population, as of March 2001, and the 2000-2001 population, as of November 2001. 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. The SESIR data for the 1998-1999 school year is current, as of December 1999, 1999-2000 data, as of November 2000, and 2000-2001 data, as of November 2001.

SESIR Incidents and Related Elements

As previously stated, the SESIR system collects data on 21 incidents of crime, violence, and disruptive behaviors that occur on school grounds, on school transportation, and at off-campus, school-sponsored events, during any 24-hour period, 365 days per year. Below, the incidents have been divided into categories based on incident characteristics with the coding abbreviation in parentheses.

⇒ Violent Acts Against Persons

1. *Homicide (HOM)*
2. *Sexual Battery (SXB)*
3. *Robbery (ROB)*
4. *Battery (BAT)*
5. *Kidnapping (KID)*

⇒ Alcohol, Tobacco, or Other Drugs

6. *Drugs (DRG)*
7. *Alcohol (ALC)*
8. *Tobacco (TBC)*

⇒ Property

9. *Breaking/Entering (BRK)*
10. *Larceny/Theft (STL)*
11. *Motor Vehicle Theft (MVT)*
12. *Arson (ARS)*
13. *Vandalism (VAN)*

⇒ Harassment

14. *Threat/Intimidation (TRS)*
15. *Sexual Harassment (SXH)*

⇒ Other Non-Violent Incidents

16. *Sexual Offense (SXO)*
17. *Trespassing (TRS)*
18. *Other Major (OMC)*

⇒ Incidents Not Categorized

19. *Fighting (FIT)*
20. *Disorderly Conduct (DOC)*
21. *Weapons Possession (WPO)*

Following the 1998-1999 school year, the SESIR incident definitions were revised to better define the incidents and help schools identify incidents more accurately. These new definitions were effective for the 1999-2000 school year. Appendix A contains the

SESIR definitions that were utilized in the 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 school years and Appendix B contains the SESIR definitions that were utilized in the 1998-1999 school year.

In addition to the 21 incident types, SESIR also collects five “related” data elements that are often associated with the incidents. These elements describe whether the following external factors were present when the incident occurred:

- Gang-Related
- Alcohol-Related
- Drug-Related
- Hate Crime-Related
- Weapon-Related

These related elements allow SESIR incidents to be more thoroughly described. 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 a *Battery, Weapon-Related* and *Alcohol-Related*.

The SESIR incidents are ranked into four levels of seriousness, which are used to determine which incident to report when multiple incidents occur at the same place at the same time. The most serious of the incidents should be reported, even though there may be multiple, less serious incidents that also took place at the same time in the same place. For example, if threat turns into battery, the *Battery* incident type should be reported since it is ranked at a more serious level. The general rule is that the incident that caused either the most injury or the highest loss of property or monetary cost is to be reported.

Rank Ordering of Incident Types for Reporting:

<i>Most Serious</i>		INCIDENT TYPE		<i>Least Serious</i>			
Level I		Level II		Level III		Level IV	
Homicide		Arson		Threat/Intimidation		Drugs	
Sexual Battery		Vandalism		Weapons Possession		Alcohol	
Kidnapping		Motor Vehicle Theft		Disorderly Conduct		Tobacco	
Robbery Battery		Larceny/Theft Breaking & Entering		Sexual Harassment			
		Trespassing		Fighting			

Other specific details about SESIR incidents are also collected. The specific details that are provided in this report include the following:

- *Persons Involved*—Student or Non-Student.
- *Time of Incident*—During School Hours or After-School Hours.
- *Location of Incident*—On School Grounds, or at a School-Sponsored Activity or on School Transportation

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

SESIR Data Quality

The National Center for Education Statistics has previously recognized the SESIR system as a model for school safety data collection.¹ Although the system has been nationally recognized, the data continue to be based on district interpretations made by administrators at the school level. Thus, caution must be exercised in the interpretation and application of SESIR data. Threats to data validity that have been identified include the inaccurate and inconsistent application of incident definitions, and over- and under-reporting of SESIR data.

The Department of Education is aware of these concerns with the SESIR system and has, over the past several years, developed and delivered training to school district personnel throughout the State. These training sessions were designed to help schools and districts become more knowledgeable of the SESIR incident definitions and to develop more accurate and consistent data reporting. In addition, a training CD-ROM was developed that provided interactive instruction on SESIR incident reporting requirements. The CD-ROM includes case examples of SESIR incidents, definitions, guidelines for how and when to code SESIR incidents, video clips that illustrate incidents, proper coding procedures, and a self-assessment test that evaluates users on their knowledge of the SESIR system. This CD-ROM was disseminated to school districts before the 2000-2001 school year to assist in improving the knowledge and skills of school-level personnel who identify and report SESIR incidents. An updated version of this training will also be available on the internet by June, 2002.

Comparison of SESIR Data to FSIR Data

The SESIR data and categories provided in this report will differ slightly from what is reported in the *Florida School Indicators Report (FSIR)*, published by the Florida Department of Education. The *FSIR* provides status and performance data on the elementary, middle, and high schools for each of the Florida school districts (available on the Internet at <http://info.doe.state.fl.us/fsir/>). There are many schools in the state that do not fit the *FSIR* grade level categories, such as charter and combination schools, which may have grades K-8 together in one school. Because SESIR data are

¹ U.S. Department of Education. National Center for Education Statistics. *Recommendation of the Crime, Violence and Discipline Reporting Task Force*, NCES 97-581, prepared by the National Education Statistics Agenda Committee: 1996.

reported by the incident and not by the student, it is difficult to classify the grade level in which a charter or combination school may fit. Schools included in this 2000-2001 SESIR report are Elementary, Middle, and High Schools; Charter Schools; and Combination Schools in the 67 districts.

SESIR Data Comparisons

Users of the data contained in this report should exercise caution when making comparisons among school districts. The number of SESIR incidents reported may vary among districts due to different interpretations of incident definitions, varying levels of consistency with which schools report incidents, and variation in the amount and level of training received by school personnel.

It is extremely difficult, and not recommended, to make general comparisons of SESIR data from one district to another, without taking into consideration other factors and variables which are not provided in this report. It is important to recognize that because of inconsistent reporting, lower numbers of incidents do not necessarily imply that districts which reported fewer incidents have “safer” schools. The purpose of this report is to provide the SESIR and Discipline Data that were reported to DOE by the 67 Florida school districts for use in needs assessment, performance improvement planning and trend monitoring. Making conclusions about the safety and security of Florida schools, using this report alone, is not advised.

ANALYSIS OF STATE SESIR DATA

As previously identified, the Florida Department of Education collects data on 21 incidents of crime, violence, and disruptive behaviors that occur on school grounds, on school transportation, and at off-campus, school-sponsored events, during any 24-hour period, 365 days per year. For the purpose of this narrative report, the incidents have been assembled into five main categories: 1) *Violent Acts Against Persons*; 2) *Alcohol, Tobacco, or Other Drugs (ATOD)*; 3) *Property*; 4) *Harassment*; and 5) *Other Non-Violent Incidents*. Additionally, the three incidents of *Fighting, Disorderly Conduct, and Weapons Possession* will remain as separate categories throughout this report due to the special interest in these incident types.

SESIR Incident Summaries

The “SESIR Incident Summaries” Table provides both raw data numbers and percent of incidents which pertain to each of the elements: the time incidents occurred, persons involved, location of incidents, and schools, by level and type, that reported no SESIR incidents.

Time of day is identified by two classifications: “During School Hours” and “After School Hours.” “During School Hours” is defined as the time when instruction and learning are taking place within the school. “After School Hours” is classified as any time when instruction is not taking place or when the normal school day is not in session, which includes the time when after-school programs and school-sponsored events are in progress. Approximately 95% of incidents took place “During School Hours” in all three years, with a range of 95-97%. Three percent (3%) of incidents took place “After School Hours”, and less than one percent (1%) at “Unknown” times.

Persons involved range from 94% to 96% “Students,” while one percent (1%) were “Non-students,” one percent (1%) were both “Students” and “Non-students,” and three percent (3%) were “Unknown”. A “Student” is as an individual who is a student in the district where the incident occurred. When incidents involve both a student of the district and an individual that is not a student of the district, the individuals are classified as “Students” and “Non-students.” A “Non-student” is an individual who is not a student in the district where the incident occurred, and “Unknown” is used when the person involved in the incident is not known.

Location of Incidents indicates where the incident occurred. SESIR reports only incidents which occur on school grounds, at school-sponsored activities or on school sponsored transportation. If an incident involves a student at a corner near the school, it would not be reported in the SESIR system. Approximately 96% of all incidents occur on school grounds, with little variation over the three-year period.

Schools reporting no SESIR incidents by level and type range as follows over the three-year period 1998-2001:

School Type	Schools Not Reporting Incidents
Middle Schools	1.9% to 3.0%
High Schools	7.5% to 9.5%
Elementary Schools	22.4% to 24.6%
Combination Schools	19.3% to 24.1%
Charter Schools	56% to 75%

It is important to note that schools reporting no SESIR incidents may have had no incidents occur, or they may have failed to report incidents. In the current data-collection methodology, there is no way to distinguish a school's having no incidents from a failure to report any incidents.

SESIR Raw Data Totals

Raw SESIR totals are provided for the 1998-1999, 1999-2000, and 2000-2001 school years. There has been a steady decrease in total incidents reported over the three years. During the 1999-2000 school year, there were 180,351 SESIR incidents reported, a 21% decrease from the 1998-1999 school year. During the 2000-2001 school year, there were 133,530 SESIR incidents reported, representing a decrease of 19% 1999-2000 school year report. The reduction in total number of incidents over the past three years may be attributed to schools more accurately classifying incidents due to the statewide training in 2000. It may be premature to attribute the reduction of incidents to widespread change in student behavior at this time. This interpretation may be accurate when reporting reflects a greater consistency of definition interpretation and coding accuracy.

The reduction of *Disorderly Conduct* and *Fighting* incidents together account for 85% of the total reduction of incidents reported between 1998-1999 and 2000-2001, with *Disorderly Conduct* itself accounting for 76%. It is believed that this large decrease is primarily due to a change in the *Disorderly Conduct* definition that was made after the 1998-1999 school year and the clarification of the *Fighting* definition. *Fighting* was interpreted more broadly in years prior to 2000. Fighting definitions are provided in the Appendices.

Incidents Per 1,000 Students Totals

In an effort to portray how often SESIR incidents occur, accounting for population differences among districts and over time, the number of SESIR incidents that occur per 1,000 students is provided. The calculation is computed by dividing the total number of SESIR incidents by the total student population and then multiplying by 1,000. Providing the number of incidents per 1,000 students allows all districts to be examined

by the same standard, regardless of student population change over the three-year period.

Due to rounding in the per 1,000 students calculations, the values within each incident, when totaled, may not equal the category total. The category totals reflect the values when the data are totaled on an aggregated category level. In addition, due to several incidents such as *Kidnapping* having very low numbers, the value for the incidents per 1,000 students will be shown as “0.00.” For ease of reading, the values have been rounded to only two decimal points. The SESIR data displayed in Table 2 show how frequently each incident occurred on a statewide level.

SESIR Totals: Trends by Categories

Trend graphs illustrate a three-year trend of the SESIR categories since the 1998-1999 school year. All categories experienced a downward trend in the number of total incidents reported in 2000-2001, compared with 1998-1999. *Disorderly Conduct* decreased markedly over the past three years.

Figure 1 provides a visual analysis of the 1998-1999 SESIR incident categories and the percentage that each category composes of the total number of incidents reported. As shown, the two incidents of *Fighting* and *Disorderly Conduct* composed 63% of the total SESIR incidents reported during the 1998-1999 school year.

Figure 1—SESIR 1998-1999 Frequency of Incident Categories

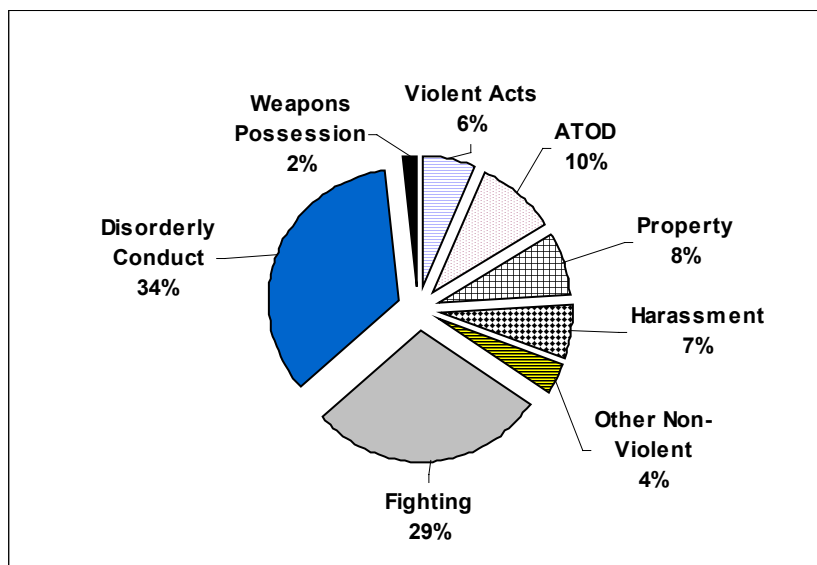


Figure 2 provides a visual analysis of the 1999-2000 SESIR incident categories and the percentage that each category composes of the total number of incidents reported. *Fighting* and *Disorderly Conduct* comprise 58% of the total SESIR incidents reported during the 1999-2000 school year.

Figure 2—SESIR 1999-2000 Frequency of Incident Categories

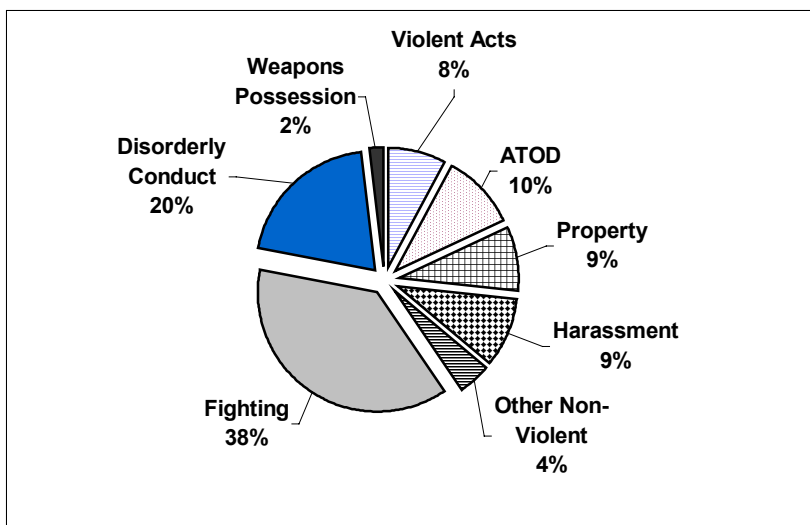
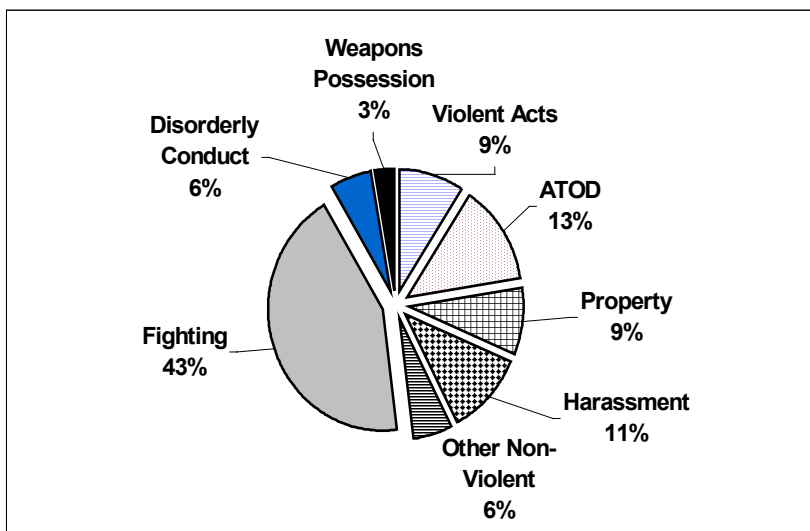


Figure 3 provides a visual analysis of the 2000-2001 SESIR incident categories and the percentage that each category composes of the total number of incidents reported. *Fighting* and *Disorderly Conduct* incidents comprise 49% of all 21 incidents. However, *Fighting* is 43% of the total and *Disorderly Conduct* has dramatically reduced to six (6%) of the total SESIR incidents reported during the 2000-2001 school year.

Figure 3—SESIR 2000-2001 Frequency of Incident Categories



ANALYSIS OF STATE SESIR CATEGORY TOTALS

SESIR data are instrumental in analyzing the frequency and severity with which incidents of crime and violence occur in schools across the state of Florida. A further understanding of the individual incidents is achieved by analyzing the incident data within each of the main SESIR categories. On an aggregated level, one incident type can cause the entire category total to decrease, even though other incidents in the category experienced an increase in the number of incidents reported. Therefore, conducting separate analyses for each individual category helps identify incidents that cause a significant change in the category total. In summary, of the 21 incident types, 16 decreased since 1998-1999 with the most remarkable decrease being Motor Vehicle Theft (63%), and the *Tobacco* category (36%), aside from *Disorderly Conduct*. Five incidents increased: *Kidnapping* (+140%) with a very low frequency of 12 incidents statewide, *Drugs* (+32%), *Alcohol* (+8%), *Trespassing* (2%), and *Arson* (1%).

Detailed category analyses are presented for the five main SESIR categories and the three individual SESIR incidents previously identified. For each SESIR category analyzed, a table provides the incident raw data totals for the category and individual incidents and summarizes the incidents per 1,000 students for the category.

Violent Acts Against Persons

The *Violent Acts Against Persons* category combines the data from the five incidents of *Homicide*, *Sexual Battery*, *Robbery*, *Battery*, and *Kidnapping*. Table 1 indicates that the number of incidents as a whole has consistently declined over the three-year period by 16%. *Battery* is by far the most frequent incident of violent acts against persons that occurs in schools. The number of *Battery* incidents has declined steadily by 17% over the three-year period, accounting for the majority of the total category's 17% decline. *Kidnapping*, although a very infrequently reported incident, (12 incidents statewide), has increased 140% in the past year.

Table 1—Violent Acts Against Persons Incidents Raw Data Totals

SESIR Classification	1998-1999		1999-2000		2000-2001	
Student Population:	(2,502,281)		(2,550,124)		(2,556,615)	
Incident	<i>Raw Data</i>	Per 1,000	<i>Raw Data</i>	Per 1,000	<i>Raw Data</i>	Per 1,000
Homicide	1	0.00	1	0.00	0	0.00
Sexual Battery	159	.06	184	0.07	156	0.06
Robbery	365	.15	341	0.13	284	.11
Battery	14,088	5.63	13,449	5.27	11,746	4.59
Kidnapping	5	0.00	5	0.00	12	0.00
Total	14,618	5.84	13,980	5.48	12,198	4.77

Alcohol, Tobacco, or Other Drugs

The *Alcohol, Tobacco, or Other Drugs* (ATOD) category combines the data from the three incidents of *Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drugs*. Table 2 indicates that the total number of ATOD incidents has declined 19% since the 1998-1999 school year. However, this decline is solely due to the substantial decrease in the number of *Tobacco* incidents which decreased 23% from 1998-1999 to 1999-2000 and 17% from 1999-2000 to 2000-2001, with a three-year decrease of 36%. Incidents of *Drugs*, however, have increased over the past three years by 33%, with the highest number of incidents occurring during the 2000-2001 school year.

Table 2— Alcohol, Tobacco, or Other Drugs

SESIR Classification	1998-1999		1999-2000		2000-2001	
Student Population:	(2,502,281)		(2,550,124)		(2,556,615)	
Incident	<u>Per 1,000</u>	<i>Raw Data</i>	<u>Per 1,000</u>	<i>Raw Data</i>	<u>Per 1,000</u>	<i>Raw Data</i>
Drugs	1.90	4,742	2.08	5,294	2.46	6,280
Alcohol	0.41	1,024	0.42	1,065	0.43	1,104
Tobacco	6.42	16,065	4.86	12,394	4.03	10,313
Total	8.72	21,831	7.35	18,753	6.92	17,697

Of the ATOD incidents that occur in schools, *Tobacco* is the most frequent and *Alcohol* is the least frequent incident. The number of *Alcohol* incidents remained constant for the past three-year period.

Property

The *Property* category combines the data from the five incidents of *Arson, Breaking/Entering, Larceny/Theft, Motor Vehicle Theft, and Vandalism*. Table 5 indicates that the Property category experienced a 31% decline in the total number of incidents reported over the three-year period. *Vandalism* and *Larceny/Theft* were the most frequent Property incidents. Over this period, *Vandalism* decreased by 34% while *Larceny/Theft* decreased by 30%, and *Motor Vehicle Theft* incidents, relatively infrequent, decreased by 63%.

A reporting guideline was added for the 1999-2000 school year, to give more specificity to the definition of *Larceny/Theft*. The modification indicated that the item involved in the incident must have a value in excess of \$50 in order for the incident to be reported to SESIR. This new guideline was added to clarify the level of seriousness that was required to report *Larceny/Theft* incidents to SESIR, with the intent to reduce the number of minor incidents that did not result in a large monetary loss. The decline of *Larceny/Theft* incidents of 30% over this period is likely partially a result of the definition clarification.

Table 3— Property

SESIR Classification	1998-1999		1999-2000		2000-2001	
Student Population:	(2,502,281)		(2,550,124)		(2,556,615)	
Incident	Per 1,000	<i>Raw Data</i>	Per 1,000	<i>Raw Data</i>	Per 1,000	<i>Raw Data</i>
Breaking/Entering	0.60	<i>1,505</i>	0.57	<i>1,452</i>	0.46	<i>1,177</i>
Larceny/Theft	3.32	<i>8,311</i>	2.81	<i>7,171</i>	2.27	<i>5,801</i>
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	0.09	<i>218</i>	0.06	<i>141</i>	0.03	<i>80</i>
Arson	0.11	<i>272</i>	0.09	<i>233</i>	0.11	<i>274</i>
Vandalism	2.94	<i>7,346</i>	2.55	<i>6,494</i>	1.90	<i>4,846</i>
Total	7.05	<i>17,652</i>	6.07	<i>15,491</i>	4.76	<i>12,180</i>

Harassment

The *Harassment* category combines the data from the two incidents of *Threat/Intimidation* and *Sexual Harassment*, with *Threat/Intimidation* the most frequent incident by far. *Threat/Intimidation* is, in fact, the second most frequent incident reported of all 21 incidents with *Fighting* the most frequent and *Battery* the third most frequent.

Threat/Intimidation incidents are of particular concern because of the relationship they have to recent acts of school violence across the country. The total category, as well as both incidents, *Sexual Harassment* and *Threat/Intimidation*, have decreased in raw data by four percent (4%) since 1998-1999 school year, which is likely normal variance.

Table 4— Harassment

SESIR Classification	1998-1999		1999-2000		2000-2001	
Student Population:	(2,502,281)		(2,550,124)		(2,556,615)	
Incident	Per 1,000	<i>Raw Data</i>	Per 1,000	<i>Raw Data</i>	Per 1,000	<i>Raw Data</i>
Threat/Intimidation	5.04	<i>12,601</i>	5.56	<i>14,183</i>	4.73	<i>12,103</i>
Sexual Harassment	1.13	<i>2,829</i>	1.07	<i>2,738</i>	1.06	<i>2,720</i>
Total	6.17	<i>15,430</i>	6.64	<i>16,921</i>	5.80	<i>14,823</i>

Other Non-Violent Incidents

The *Other Non-Violent Incident* category combines the data from the three incidents of *Sexual Offense*, *Trespassing*, and *Other Major*. Table 7 illustrates that the number of Other Non-Violent incidents as a whole has decreased by 14% since 1998-1999. *Trespassing* and *Sexual Offense* have each varied just two percent (2%) since 1998-1999. *Other Major* incidents have decreased by 22% over the three-year period.

Table 5— Other Non-Violent Incidents

SESIR Classification	1998-1999		1999-2000		2000-2001	
Student Population:	(2,502,281)		(2,550,124)		(2,556,615)	
Incident	Per 1,000	<i>Raw Data</i>	Per 1,000	<i>Raw Data</i>	Per 1,000	<i>Raw Data</i>
Sexual Offense	0.67	<i>1,684</i>	0.60	<i>1,540</i>	0.64	<i>1,643</i>
Trespassing	0.56	<i>1,413</i>	0.59	<i>1,515</i>	0.57	<i>1,447</i>
Other Major	2.21	<i>5,541</i>	1.93	<i>4,916</i>	1.69	<i>4,313</i>
Total	3.45	8,638	3.13	7,971	2.90	7,403

Fighting

Fighting consists of incidents in which two or more persons mutually participate in physical violence that requires physical restraint and/or results in injury. These incidents do not include minor scuffles, pushing, or verbal confrontations between two individuals. Table 8 shows that each year, a very large number of *Fighting* incidents are reported and the number of incidents has changed very little until 2000-2001, when *Fighting* decreased by 13% from 1998-1999. This decrease may be partially explained by the clarification of the definition of *Fighting* in the training provided statewide, which likely reduced the number of non-SESIR fighting incidents being reported. *Fighting* is the most frequent incident of all 21 incidents, comprising 43% of the total incidents.

Table 6— Fighting

SESIR Classification	1998-1999		1999-2000		2000-2001	
Student Population:	(2,502,281)		(2,550,124)		(2,556,6615)	
Incident	Per 1,000	<i>Raw Data</i>	Per 1,000	<i>Raw Data</i>	Per 1,000	<i>Raw Data</i>
Fighting	<i>26.62</i>	<i>66,605</i>	<i>26.43</i>	<i>67,412</i>	<i>22.61</i>	<i>57,816</i>
Total	26.62	66,605	26.43	67,412	22.61	57,816

Disorderly Conduct

Disorderly Conduct is the primary SESIR incident that has been traditionally misunderstood by districts and schools throughout the State. As a result, *Disorderly Conduct* incidents have composed a disproportionate percentage of the SESIR incidents from the years 1998-2000. Table 9 indicates that incidents of *Disorderly Conduct* have decreased greatly each year, particularly between the 1998-1999 and 1999-2000 school years. During 1999-2000, there was a 54% decrease in the number of *Disorderly Conduct* incidents reported and in 2000-2001, a 90% decrease. Accordingly, the number of incidents per 1,000 students also significantly decreased from 31 incidents per 1,000 students to 14 incidents per 1,000 students in 1999-2000, to three (3) incidents per 1,000 in 2000-2001.

This large variation in the number of incidents reported during the past three years is partially a result of a modification that was made in the definition of *Disorderly Conduct*. The change took effect in the 1999-2000 school year and was designed to clarify the level of disorderly conduct that should be reported to SESIR. Districts now exclude major classroom disruptions from being reported to SESIR and only report major whole campus disruptions. Table 7 show a very significant decline in the number of *Disorderly Conduct* incidents reported during the 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 school years, which is an indication that many school districts understood and implemented the new definition within schools.

Table 7— Disorderly Conduct

SESIR Classification	1998-1999		1999-2000		2000-2001	
Student Population:	(2,502,281)		(2,550,124)		(2,556,615)	
Incident	Per 1,000	<i>Raw Data</i>	Per 1,000	<i>Raw Data</i>	Per 1,000	<i>Raw Data</i>
Disorderly Conduct	31.55	78,948	14.15	36,091	3.06	7,817
Total	31.55	78,948	14.15	36,091	3.06	7,817

For additional clarification of the changes to the *Disorderly Conduct* definition, the 1998-1999 and 1999-2000 definitions are provided.

- 1998-1999 Definition

Disorderly Conduct (serious class or campus disruption)--
any act that substantially disrupts the orderly conduct of a school function, behavior that substantially disrupts the orderly learning environment or poses a threat to the health, safety, and/or welfare

of students, staff, or others. If the action results in a more serious incident, report in the more serious incident category. Examples include: serious instances of classroom or campus disruption, such as pulling the fire alarm, defiance of authority, disobeying or showing disrespect to others, using obscene or inappropriate language or gestures and disruptive demonstrations.

- 1999-2000 Definition

Disorderly Conduct (serious campus disruption) -- any disruptive behavior that poses a serious threat to the learning environment, health, safety, and/or welfare of others.

- *Examples:* Situations where order is not easily restored, disruptive demonstrations, inciting a riot, pulling a fire alarm, bomb threats.
- *Non-Examples:* Less serious incidents such as defiance of authority, disobeying or showing disrespect to others, using obscene or inappropriate language or gestures.

This clarification in the definition was instituted to improve reporting consistency and accuracy and to reduce the traditional over-reporting of *Disorderly Conduct* incidents. School districts are advised to continue collecting classroom incidents that involve disorderly student behavior for school and district use, but these incidents should no longer be reported to SESIR.

Weapons Possession

Weapons Possession consists of incidents in which a firearm or other instrument that could cause harm is confiscated on school campus, school transportation, or at a school-sponsored event. Table 8 illustrates that the number of *Weapons Possession* incidents has slightly decreased over the three-year period by nine percent (9%).

Table 8— Weapons Possession

SESIR Classification	1998-1999		1999-2000		2000-2001	
Student Population:	(2,502,281)		(2,550,124)		(2,556,615)	
Incident	Per 1,000	<i>Raw Data</i>	Per 1,000	<i>Raw Data</i>	Per 1,000	<i>Raw Data</i>
Weapons	1.58	3,953	1.46	3,732	1.41	3,596
Total	1.58	3,953	1.46	3,732	1.41	3,596

DISCIPLINE DATA

In addition to the school safety data that are collected through SESIR, this report describes Discipline Data that are reported by schools statewide. The three main disciplinary actions included in this report are: 1) *In-School Suspensions*, 2) *Out-of-School Suspensions*, and 3) *Expulsions*. The three other disciplinary actions not included in this report are alternative placement, corporal punishment, court or juvenile referral. These three disciplinary actions are defined according to Section 228.041, Florida Statutes (F.S.):

In-School Suspension- the temporary removal of a student from the student's regular school program and placement in an alternative program, such as that provided in Section 230.2316, F.S., under the supervision of school district personnel, for a period not to exceed ten (10) school days.

Out of School Suspension- the temporary removal of a student from all classes of instruction on public school grounds and all other school-sponsored activities, except as authorized by the principal or the principal's designee, for a period not to exceed ten (10) school days and remanding of the student to the custody of the student's parent with specific homework assignments for the student to complete.

Expulsion- the removal of the right and obligation of a student to attend a public school under conditions set by the school board, and for a period of time not to exceed the remainder of the term or school year and one (1) additional year of attendance. Expulsions may be imposed with or without continuing educational services and shall be reported accordingly.

Discipline Data by Grade Level

This report provides the number of disciplinary actions that were recorded and the frequency with which they occurred in schools during the 1998-1999, 1999-2000, and 2000-2001 school years by grade levels: (elementary, middle and high). It should be noted that the number of actions is larger than the number of students suspended or expelled because individual students may be involved in multiple actions, which resulted in suspensions or expulsions.

It is important to note that the discipline data provided in this report do not pertain exclusively to SESIR incidents. Due to the seriousness of the incidents that are reported to the SESIR system, a form of disciplinary action is typically administered to students who are offenders in the incident. However, the discipline actions described in this report include all incidents (SESIR and other less serious) in which students violate school or district policies. These incidents may include behavior such as chronic truancy, insubordination, or violation of a school dress code, for example, which are not SESIR incidents. The type and the length of discipline action administered are

determined by individual districts and their various policies concerning violation of district rules and regulations.

Discipline Data 2001 Disaggregated by Gender and Race for Each Grade Level.

To provide expanded information about the students involved in suspensions and expulsions, this report includes the number of disciplinary actions and the number of students suspended or expelled at the Elementary, Middle, and High School levels disaggregated by gender and race. The following elements comprise the Discipline Data table: for each School-level category, (Elementary, Middle, and High) gender (Female and Male), and race (Asian, Black, Hispanic, Indian, Multiracial, White category).

- **Total number of students.**
- **Number of actions.** The number of suspensions or expulsions, which is often larger than the number of students because it includes students who receive multiple suspensions or expulsions)
- **Number of Students with In-School Suspensions, Out-of-School Suspensions and Expulsions.**
- **Percent of students.** Percent of students of each school level, gender and race category who received In-School Suspensions, Out-of-School Suspensions and Expulsions. For example .80% in the Elementary Female row below would be interpreted as “Of the total Elementary Females, .80 % received In-School Suspensions.” Correspondingly, the 2.55% for Male In-School Suspensions would be “Of the total number of Elementary males, 2.55% received In-School Suspensions.”

Figure 4-- Discipline Data Sample 2000-2001 Disaggregated by Gender and Race

STATE OF FLORIDA	2000 - 2001									
	Total # Students	In- School Suspensions			Out of School Suspensions			Expulsions		
		# Actions ¹	Students Suspended ²	% ³	# Actions ¹	Students Suspended ²	% ³	# Actions ¹	Students Expelled ²	% ³
ELEMENTARY	1,239,658	36,900	21,122	1.70	51,866	32,009	2.58	43	40	0.00
GENDER										
Female	600,266	7,798	4,799	0.80	9,383	6,358	1.06	8	7	0.00
Male	639,392	29,102	16,323	2.55	42,483	25,651	4.01	35	33	0.01

STATEWIDE AND DISTRICT DATA PROFILES

By law, school principals are required to ensure the accuracy of their safety and discipline data {Sections 231.085 (1) and 231.085 (7) F.S.}.

The following section of the report contains safety and discipline data statewide and for each of the 67 Florida school districts, in alphabetical order. For each district, the following information is provided:

- ***Time of Incidents, Persons Involved in Incident, Location of Incidents, Schools Reporting no Incidents 1998-2001***
- ***Raw Data Totals of SESIR Incidents, 1998-2001***
- ***SESIR Incidents Per 1,000 Students, 1998-2001***
- ***Three-Year Trend Graph of SESIR Totals by Incident Categories***
- ***Raw Data Totals of Discipline Actions by School Grade Level, 1998-2001***
- ***Discipline Actions and Students with Suspensions and Expulsions Disaggregated by School Grade Level and by Gender and Race, 2000-2001***
- ***Discipline Data Trends 1998-2001***

All of the data that are provided in the district profiles contain SESIR and Discipline Data that were reported to DOE by the school districts. The profiles are intended to provide descriptive information on the incidents of crime and violence reported in schools, as well as the types and number of discipline actions administered by schools. Again, caution is advised when analyzing and interpreting the data contained in the district profiles. It is important to recognize that fewer reported incidents do not always indicate higher levels of school safety. Therefore, the use of these district profiles to draw comparisons or definitive conclusions about safety and security in Florida's school districts is not advised.