



Dangerous Weapons and Disciplinary Incidents

Report to the Legislature

As required by Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.06, subdivision 3

For more information:

Catheryn Kightlinger
Data Practices and Analytics
Minnesota Department of Education
400 NE Stinson Blvd.
Minneapolis, MN 55413
651-582-8556
catheryn.kightlinger@state.mn.us
education.mn.gov

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Legislative Charge

Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.06, subdivision 3, requires the Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) to annually report on disciplinary incidents and incidents involving dangerous weapons that occur in Minnesota public schools. The current report covers the 2021-22 through the 2023-24 school years. Data for this report was obtained from MDE's Disciplinary Incident Reporting System.

Minnesota Statutes, Section 121A.06, Reports of Dangerous Weapon Incidents in School Zones (2024)

Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** As used in this section:

- (1) "dangerous weapon" has the meaning given it in [section 609.02, subdivision 6](#);
- (2) "school" has the meaning given it in [section 102A. 22, subdivision 4](#); and
- (3) "school zone" has the meaning given it in [section 152.01, subdivision 14a, clauses \(1\) and \(3\)](#).

Subdivision 2. **Reports; content.** School districts must electronically report to the commissioner of education incidents involving the use or possession of a dangerous weapon in school zones. The form must include the following information:

- (1) a description of each incident, including a description of the dangerous weapon involved in the incident;
- (2) where, at what time, and under what circumstances the incident occurred;
- (3) information about the offender, other than the offender's name, including the offender's age; whether the offender was a student and, if so, where the offender attended school; and whether the offender was under school expulsion or suspension at the time of the incident;
- (4) information about the victim other than the victim's name, if any, including the victim's age; whether the victim was a student and, if so, where the victim attended school; and if the victim was not a student, whether the victim was employed at the school;
- (5) the cost of the incident to the school and to the victim; and
- (6) the action taken by the school administration to respond to the incident.

The commissioner shall provide an electronic reporting format that allows school districts to provide aggregate data.

Subdivision 3. **Reports; filing requirements.** By July 31 of each year, each public school shall report incidents involving the use or possession of a dangerous weapon in school zones to the commissioner. The reports must be submitted using the electronic reporting system developed by the commissioner under subdivision 2. The commissioner shall compile the information it receives from the schools and report it annually to the commissioner of public safety and the legislature.

Introduction

The Disciplinary Incident Reporting System (DIRS) was developed in response to several state and federal reporting mandates about school safety and discipline. This report updates the Minnesota Legislature and the Minnesota Commissioner of Public Safety with an overview of reported disciplinary incidents and outcomes for the 2023-24 school year. Compared to the 2022-23 school year, there were fewer reports of dangerous weapons at Minnesota's school districts and charter schools, and schools used fewer disciplinary consequences that excluded students from the classroom. These trends were varied, though. The decrease in dangerous weapons was concentrated among the most common weapon types but excluded firearms, including hand guns, long guns, and bombs. Also, while there was a decrease in the number of exclusionary discipline consequences overall and for dangerous weapon incidents, there was an increase in exclusionary discipline for student behaviors other than weapons. Data collected in DIRS is both complex and limited. The analysis here, while rich, is descriptive, and does not describe specifically the relationship between incident types and disciplinary actions. Furthermore, the detailed information included in this report about dangerous weapon incidents does not connect outcomes to specific weapons or behaviors. Despite these limitations, there is evidence that dangerous weapons were less common in Minnesota schools than during the 2023-24 school year.

This report proceeds with a review of the [scope of data collected](#) in DIRS and information about [how data in DIRS is structured](#). The introduction concludes with a [review of limitations of data from DIRS](#) as those limitations relate to the scope, structure, and reporting method of DIRS. This is followed by the [analysis](#), which begins with overviews of all incidents and disciplinary actions, then compares disciplinary actions by incident types and dangerous weapon involvement. The analysis ends with a review of dangerous weapons incidents, looking at disciplinary actions by grade level, types of dangerous weapons, and information about the contexts and outcomes of dangerous weapons incidents.

Data Scope

Minnesota school districts and charter schools, or local education agencies (LEAs), are required to annually report to MDE information about dangerous weapons at schools and certain student discipline events. LEAs submit these reports through DIRS, a secure web-based reporting system developed and managed jointly by MDE and Minnesota IT Services (MNIT). The scope of these reports comes from requirements in Minnesota Statutes, [section 121A.06](#) and [Section 121A.53](#). DIRS reports are not a record of all student discipline, instead DIRS reports are record of:

- All instances when students physically assaulted a district employee, regardless of consequences
- All instances when a dangerous weapon, defined as a weapon, a bomb, or an act of arson, was present at a school
- All instances when a school issued a defined disciplinary action or involved law enforcement as a disciplinary consequence, regardless of student behavior

[Appendix A](#) details the reporting criteria for the 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24 school years. [Appendix C](#) defines the disciplinary consequences reported in DIRS.

Data Structure

Minnesota Statutes [section 121A.06](#) and [section 121A.53](#) detail which information LEAs are required to include in a DIRS report, but how this information is organized relationally and categorically was decided by MDE. When something happens at an LEA that is reportable in DIRS, the LEA reports the event, called an incident. Incidents contain information about their context, like when and where an incident happened. They also connect to people, their actions, and the school's response to them. This creates two levels of analysis for data in DIRS: incident-level analysis and person-level analysis. Further details about the incident and the people involved are included, usually in categories. There are two important categories in this report: the type of person and the incident type. People associated with an incident are classified as either offenders, whose behavior is involved in an incident, or victims, who are harmed by an incident.

All reported incidents have an offender, even if the offender is unknown. For each offender reported, the reporting LEA must select an incident type which describes that person's behavior during the incident. Only one incident type can be selected per offender. The most severe one is selected from a severity ranking. The full list of incident types with the severity ranking is in [Appendix B](#). Three incident types, "Weapon", "Bomb", and "Arson" are considered dangerous weapon incident types. They are the primary focus of this report. Incidents involving dangerous weapons can have anyone as an offender, even if they are unknown. Otherwise, offenders are students. When a student is reported as an offender, the report must include at least one of the disciplinary actions listed in [Appendix C](#). Disciplinary actions are a second focus of this report.

Victims are included in some DIRS reports. When a student physically assaults a district employee or teacher the LEA is required to report that in DIRS. Incidents with an incident type of "Bullying/harassment", "Hazing", "Robbery", or "Homicide", require a victim. The incident types that comprise dangerous weapons: "Weapon", "Bomb", and "Arson" do not by themselves require the LEA to report a victim. As such, it is possible that LEAs may or may not report victims from incidents involving dangerous weapons.

Limitations

Analyzing data from DIRS requires care and consideration because of the scope of the data, how it is structured, and how it is reported.

Scope

- DIRS data excludes some student behaviors and disciplinary consequences. These exclusions may be used more widely in response to some incident types than others, in specific grade levels, or regionally within the state.
- Incidents not involving a dangerous weapon or during which a student physically assaulted a teacher or district employee are reported based on their disciplinary outcome, not the behavior itself; therefore, the incidents that are reported with incident types besides dangerous weapons and physical assaults of teachers or district employees may be perceived as more severe than average by the reporting LEAs.
- DIRS reporting requirements are set by statute, reflecting policy concerns, including school safety and equity.

- There are additional reporting requirements for students receiving special education services compared to students not receiving those services, affecting the composition of reports.
- Events reported in DIRS do not necessarily reflect the most common discipline concerns or consequences.

Structure

- Incidents are reported with one incident type per student. This obscures less severe behaviors that happen during an incident when a student engages in multiple behaviors of concern.
- Outcome information and victims are linked to the incident and not a specific incident type. This makes it unclear what caused school property damage or how someone was injured.
- Dangerous weapons reports do not include information about use. Reports only include information about presence, limiting knowledge of what specifically led to any outcomes.
- Victims are reported by victim type. The victim types are: “Student enrolled at the school which reported the incident”, “Student from another school”, “Teacher”, and “District employee”. “Student from another school”, “Teacher”, and “District employee” can be reported in groups, leading to unclear information about the number of people harmed in an incident and information about their level of injury and medical costs.

Reporting Method

- LEAs self-report DIRS data with a review and certification process, but there is no enforceable requirement for them to validate their data with other records.
- Incident type classifications and disciplinary action choices include school and LEA discretion. This means there is variation between LEAs and in LEAs about how incidents are classified, and which consequences students receive.

Data from DIRS is one piece of understanding student discipline and school safety concerns. DIRS data provides a high-level overview of discipline that shows how frequently schools face discipline concerns involving dangerous weapons and how frequently schools use exclusionary discipline and law enforcement for discipline. It does not, however, show interactions within an incident to understand how an incident occurred, nor does it create a complete picture of school discipline. As such, it describes discipline without explaining causes of outcomes from disciplinary incidents.

Analysis

The Dangerous Weapons and Disciplinary Incident Report is an annual review of data from DIRS focused on describing the context and outcomes of dangerous weapon incidents. This analysis reviews DIRS data from the 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24 school years. During this period, school district and charter school enrollment for grades kindergarten through 12 declined. 848,619 students were enrolled in school districts and charter schools in 2021-22. Student enrollment decreased to 846,192 in 2022-23 and then decreased further to 844,767 in 2023-24. This trend in enrollment is important to keep in mind when reviewing this report; however, enrollment and disciplinary incident trends were dissimilar during the 2023-24 school year.

The data included in this report represents complete incidents reported in DIRS, but there is variation in sample inclusion and categorization from year-to-year. Incomplete incidents were excluded from the data analyzed. There were 155 excluded incidents in 2021-22, 299 in 2022-23, and 107 from 2023-24. The sample inclusion criteria for this report were revised in 2023-24 to ensure that incidents with unknown or unenrolled offenders were included in this report. The impacts of this will be discussed in the analysis section of the relevant tables. Also, rules used in determining if an incident involved a dangerous weapon or not were updated for the 2023-24 data. In 2021-22 and 2022-23, an incident could be counted as both involving a dangerous weapon and as not involving a dangerous weapon if there were multiple offenders with different incident types. In 2023-24, it was determined that those incidents would be classified as involving a dangerous weapon only. Further variation comes from changes made to incident types and disciplinary action types in 2023-24. These changes are noted in the discussion of the relevant tables.

The analysis in this report begins with a review of [total incidents](#), then [total disciplinary actions](#). After that, disciplinary actions are [reviewed by incident type](#) and [disciplinary action type](#). The analysis of disciplinary action type is the first of three sections comparing consequences for students with dangerous weapons incident types to those with other types of incidents. Besides disciplinary action type, those are [student suspension and expulsion status at the time of an incident](#) and [law enforcement involvement](#). The report then focuses only on dangerous weapons incidents with a review of [disciplinary actions given by grade level](#) for dangerous weapons incident types, the [counts of dangerous weapons by type](#) reported each year, [context and school costs](#) of dangerous weapons incidents, and [persons harmed by dangerous weapons incidents](#). The report concludes with a [review of key findings](#).

Total Incidents

Table 1 shows the total number of reported disciplinary incidents and the number of reported incidents associated with and not associated with dangerous weapons during the 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24 school years. The analysis in this table was affected by the changes to sample inclusion and dangerous weapon association discussed at the [beginning of the analysis section](#).

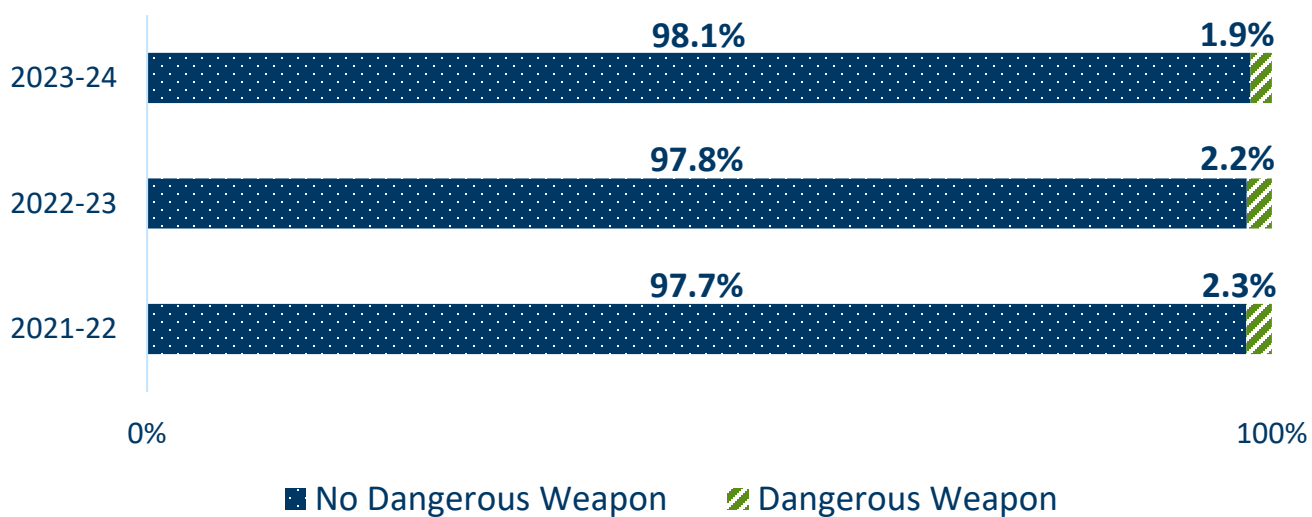
Table 1 shows that during the 2023-24 school year there were 66,933 reported incidents. Of those incidents, 1,274 were associated with dangerous weapons while 65,659 were not associated with dangerous weapons. This was a decrease from the 2022-23 school year when there were 77,590 total incidents, including 1,735 that were associated with dangerous weapons. The reduction in the number of incidents involving dangerous weapons is also visible from the decrease in the share of incidents associated with dangerous weapons from 2.2% of incidents during the 2022-23 school year to 1.9% during the 2023-24 school year.

Table 1. Reported Disciplinary Incidents by Dangerous Weapon Involvement from 2021-22 through 2023-24

Dangerous Weapon Involvement	2021-22		2022-23		2023-24	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
No Dangerous Weapon	67,208	97.7%	75,864	97.8%	65,659	98.1%
Dangerous Weapon	1,563	2.3%	1,735	2.2%	1,274	1.9%
Total	68,771	100.0%	77,590	100%	66,933	100%

Table Note: Totals for the 2021-22 and the 2022-23 school year may be greater than the sum of their parts because incidents with “Weapon”, “Arson”, or “Bomb” incident types and another incident type were counted as both involving a dangerous weapon and not involving a dangerous weapon. This was discontinued in the 2023-24 analysis, which only counted incidents with multiple incident types as not involving a dangerous weapon when those incidents did not include “Weapon”, “Arson”, or “Bomb” incident types.

Figure 1. Share of Reported Disciplinary Incidents by Dangerous Weapon Involvement from 2021-22 through 2023-24



Total Disciplinary Actions

Disciplinary actions are the school’s response to a student’s behavior that are reported in DIRS. Incidents may be reportable because of a disciplinary action or the incident type. LEAs are required to report a disciplinary action for all students reported as “Offenders” in DIRS. LEAs can report “No School Response” for a disciplinary action, when relevant, but this is not included in counts of disciplinary actions. Disciplinary actions, their criteria, and their definitions are described in [Appendix C](#).

Table 2 shows that LEAs reported 77,533 disciplinary actions in 2023-24. Of those disciplinary actions, 76,117 were in response to incident types other than dangerous weapon types, while 1,416 were associated with dangerous weapons. Compared to the previous year, LEAs reported fewer disciplinary actions for both incident types associated with dangerous weapons incident types and incident types not associated with dangerous weapons, matching the overall decrease in disciplinary actions from 2022-23 to 2023-24. Given the change in the number of disciplinary actions reported in 2023-24 compared to 2022-23, it is helpful to look at the share of actions associated with and not associated with dangerous weapons incident types too. In 2023-24, 98.2% of reported disciplinary actions were associated with non-dangerous weapon incident types, while 1.8% of reported disciplinary actions were associated with dangerous weapons. This contrasts with the 2022-23 data in which 97.8% of disciplinary actions were not associated with dangerous weapons incident types, while 2.2% were associated with dangerous weapons. It is best not to compare these results to the analysis of incidents in Table 1, because an incident may contain multiple offenders with different incident types and incidents involving unknown/unenrolled offenders are not reflected in table 2. Instead, looking back on the 2021-22 school year is informative. The share of disciplinary actions in 2021-22 associated with dangerous weapons and associated with other incident types is identical to in 2022-23, suggesting a change in the pattern of disciplinary actions in the 2023-24 school year.

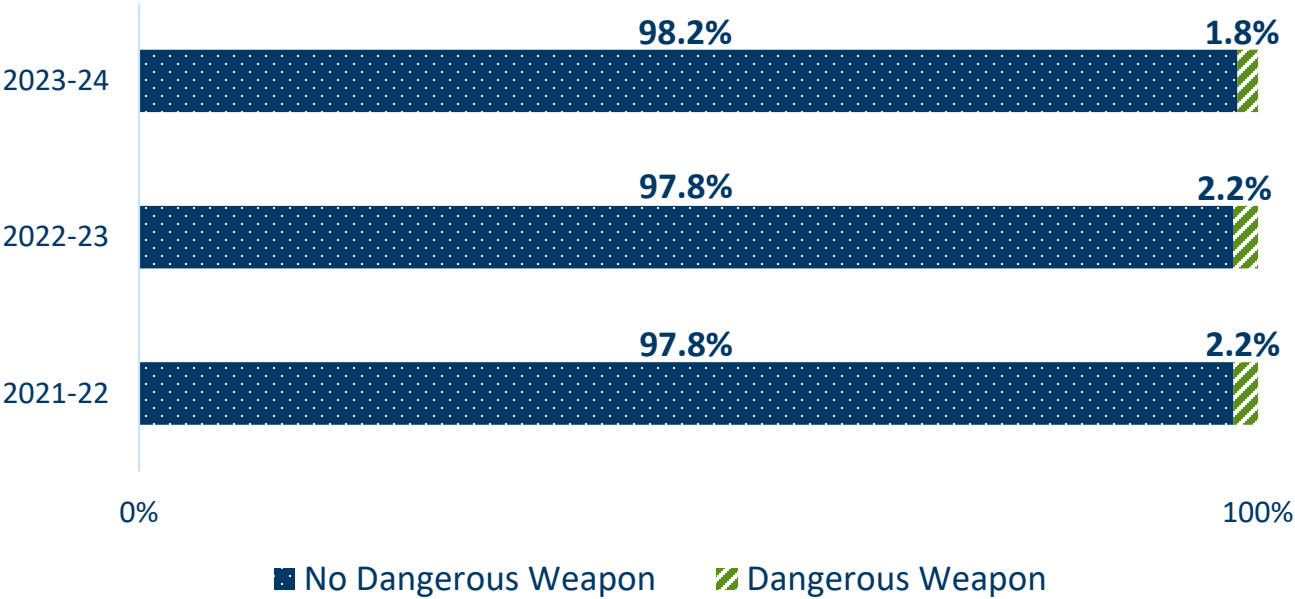
Table 2. Reported Disciplinary Actions by Dangerous Weapon Involvement 2021-22 through 2023-24

Dangerous Weapon Involvement	2021-22		2022-23		2023-24	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
No Dangerous Weapon	75,508	97.8%	85,391	97.8%	76,117	98.2%
Dangerous Weapon	1,681	2.2%	1,880	2.2%	1,416	1.8%
Total	77,189	100%	87,271	100%	77,533	100%

Table Note: Disciplinary actions reported in DIRS are a subset of disciplinary outcomes. They are listed and defined in [Appendix C](#). These counts exclude the disciplinary action type of “No school response”. They also exclude the other DIRS reported disciplinary consequences “Referral to law enforcement” and “School-related arrest”. Disciplinary actions do not reflect the number of incidents as incidents with unenrolled/unknown weapons included in the 2023-24 data are not

included in discipline metrics. Disciplinary actions do not reflect the number of students disciplined as students may receive multiple disciplinary actions for a single incident and receive disciplinary actions in response to multiple incidents in a year.

Figure 2. Share of Reported Disciplinary Actions by Dangerous Weapons Involvement, 2021-22 through 2023-24



Disciplinary Actions by Incident Type

Table 3 provides more details about disciplinary actions by providing counts and shares of disciplinary actions associated with each type of incident in 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24. [Appendix B](#) provides definitions of each incident type. There were changes to incident types during this period. “Cannabis” was added to DIRS as a separate incident type at the start of the 2023-24 school year. Previously cannabis incidents were usually reported under the incident type “Illegal Drugs.”

The most common incident types for which disciplinary actions were received were “Disruptive/disorderly conduct/insubordination”, “Fighting”, and “Physical contact” each year from 2021-22 through 2023-24, but the distribution of disciplinary actions was not stagnant. A greater share of disciplinary actions was given each year from 2021-22 through 2023-24 for incident types of “Disruptive/disorderly conduct/insubordination”, “Physical contact”, and “Threat/intimidation”. In contrast, both the number and share of disciplinary actions associated with “Attendance” decreased with 2,520 disciplinary actions reported in 2023-24, representing 3.3% of disciplinary actions, in contrast to the 4,216 and 3,601 actions reported in 2022-23 and 2021-22, respectively, which represented 4.8% and 4.7% of disciplinary actions for those years, respectively. While it appears that the number and share of incidents associated with “Illegal drugs” changed dramatically, the change cannot be determined given the addition of the “Cannabis” incident type.

[Table 2](#) highlighted an overall decrease in disciplinary actions from 2022-23 to 2023-24, but a few incident types were associated with more disciplinary actions in 2023-24 than in 2022-23. These incident types were: “Technology”, “Academic dishonesty”, “Bomb threats”, “Pyrotechnics”, “Hazing”, and “Bombs”. “Academic dishonesty”, “Bomb threats”, “Pyrotechnics”, “Hazing”, and “Bombs” were rare enough incident types that these increases did not create a change in the share of disciplinary actions associated with that incident type relative to previous years, but reported disciplinary actions for “Technology” rose from 1.2% of disciplinary actions in both 2021-22 and 2022-23 to 1.4% of disciplinary actions in 2023-24.

Table 3. Disciplinary Actions by Incident Type 2021-22 through 2023-24

Incident Type	2021-22		2022-23		2023-24	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Disruptive/disorderly conduct/insubordination	19,931	25.1%	22,198	25.4%	20,586	26.6%
Fighting	15,371	19.9%	15,969	18.3%	15,386	19.8%
Physical contact	5,648	7.3%	7,567	8.7%	6,886	8.9%
Tobacco	5,812	7.5%	6,542	7.5%	5,078	6.5%
Threat/intimidation	4,148	5.4%	4,922	5.6%	4,434	5.7%
Bullying/harassment (includes cyber bullying)	3,935	5.1%	4,255	4.9%	3,910	5.0%
Assault	3,900	5.1%	4,255	4.9%	3,625	4.7%
Cannabis†	-	-	-	-	2,952	3.8%
Other	3,089	4.0%	3,277	3.8%	2,836	3.7%
Verbal abuse	2,416	3.1%	3,129	3.6%	2,747	3.5%
Attendance	3,601	4.7%	4,216	4.8%	2,520	3.3%
Weapon*	1,624	2.1%	1,801	2.1%	1,362	1.8%
Technology	895	1.2%	1,051	1.2%	1,104	1.4%
Vandalism/property related	1,706	2.2%	1,323	1.5%	1,082	1.4%
Theft	933	1.2%	1,108	1.3%	997	1.3%
Illegal drugs‡	3,205	4.2%	4,070	4.7%	754	1.0%
Terroristic threats	373	0.5%	497	0.6%	408	0.5%

Incident Type	2021-22		2022-23		2023-24	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Alcohol	504	0.7%	491	0.6%	373	0.5%
Controlled substances (prescription)	169	0.2%	145	0.2%	91	0.1%
Academic dishonesty	84	0.1%	80	0.1%	87	0.1%
Pyrotechnics	67	0.1%	59	0.1%	84	0.1%
Bomb threat	38	0.0%	46	0.1%	57	0.1%
Arson*	57	0.1%	79	0.1%	51	0.1%
On school property without permission	111	0.1%	94	0.1%	47	0.1%
Hazing	26	0.0%	23	0.0%	32	0.0%
Gang activity	18	0.0%	34	0.0%	14	0.0%
Robbery (using force)	20	0.0%	14	0.0%	10	0.0%
Extortion	8	0.0%	9	0.0%	9	0.0%
Over-the-counter medications against school policy	40	0.1%	16	0.0%	8	0.0%
Bomb*	0	-	0	-	3	0.0%
Homicide	0	-	1	0.0	0	-
Total	77,189	100.0%	87,271	100.0%	77,533	100.0%

Table Notes: Totals do not equal the number of incidents with each incident type. Disciplinary actions counted do not include “No School Response”, nor the disciplinary outcomes, law enforcement referral or school-related arrests. Definitions of incident types are included in [appendix B](#).

*Incident type is included in Dangerous Weapon category

†New incident type for 2023-24

‡Changes to incident types changed composition of incidents classified in this type from 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years compared to 2023-24 school year.

Figure 3. Reported Disciplinary Action Counts by Incident Type 2021-22 through 2023-24

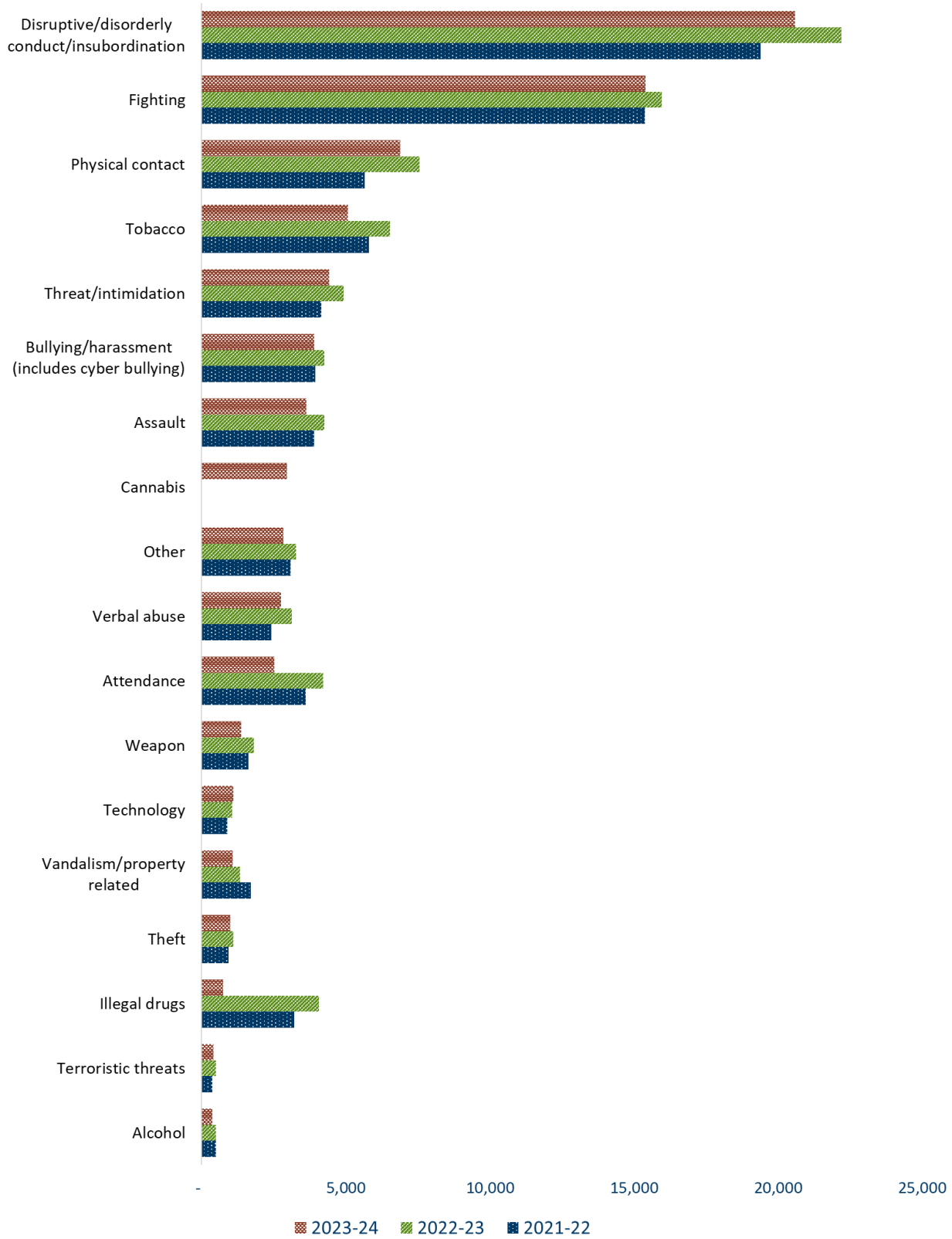


Figure Note: Only includes incident types with at least 100 reported disciplinary actions per year

Comparing Disciplinary Action Types by Dangerous Weapon Involvement

Table 4 shows the counts of disciplinary actions per year for each disciplinary action type and sub-counts for if the disciplinary action was in response to a dangerous weapon incident type or not. It also includes share of disciplinary actions associated with dangerous weapon incident types and share of year total for each disciplinary action type by dangerous weapons association pair. The list of disciplinary action types with their definitions is included in [Appendix C](#). This analysis combines “Expulsion” and “Exclusion” into one category. It also consolidates student requested transfers within district and to another district into one category: “Student requested transfer.”

During the 2023-24 school year, “Out-of-school suspension” was reported 48,718 times. It was the most frequently reported disciplinary action type. “Out-of-school suspension” represented 62.2% of all disciplinary actions reported and 77.1% of disciplinary actions reported for dangerous weapon incident types. During the 2023-24 school year, “In-school suspension” was the second most used disciplinary action; 25,743 were reported. They made up 32.9% of all disciplinary actions, but only 11.7% of disciplinary actions reported in response to dangerous weapon incident types. This makes “In-school suspension” still the second most frequently used disciplinary action in response to dangerous weapon incidents, but highlights that “Out-of-school suspension” is much more frequently used. The third most frequently used disciplinary action type was “Other”, which was used for 5.1% of dangerous weapon incidents and 3.4% of all incidents. “Other” is a heterogenous category limiting analysis on types of responses for dangerous weapon incidents. No other type of disciplinary action was associated with more than 1% of overall disciplinary actions or more than 1% of disciplinary actions reported in response to non-dangerous weapon incident types. There was more heterogeneity in disciplinary actions used in response to dangerous weapon incidents. 1.8% of disciplinary actions given in response to dangerous weapon incident types were the new “Student withdrawal with pupil withdrawal agreement”, and 1.2% were “Administrative transfers”.

Table 4. Disciplinary Action Types by Dangerous Weapon Involvement 2021-22 through 2023-24

Outcome	Dangerous Weapon Involvement	Count	2021-22		Count	2022-23		Count	2023-24	
			% Action Type Total	% Year Total		% Action Type Total	% Year Total		% Action Type Total	% Year Total
Administrative transfer	No Dangerous Weapon	35	81.4%	0.0%	70	85.4%	0.1%	83	83.0%	0.1%
	Dangerous Weapon	8	18.6%	0.5%	12	14.6%	0.6%	17	17.0%	1.2%
	Total	43	100%	0.1%	82	100%	0.1%	100	100%	0.1%
Expulsion or Exclusion	No Dangerous Weapon	45	71.4%	0.1%	51	76.1%	0.1%	22	81.5%	0.0%
	Dangerous Weapon	18	28.6%	1.1%	16	23.9%	0.9%	5	18.5%	0.3%
	Total	63	100%	0.1%	67	100%	0.1%	27	100%	0.0%
In-school suspension	No Dangerous Weapon	24,622	99.2%	32.3%	24,665	88.5%	28.6%	25,575	99.3%	33.3%
	Dangerous Weapon	194	0.8%	11.5%	217	0.8%	11.5%	168	0.7%	11.7%
	Total	24,816	100%	31.9%	27,882	100%	31.6%	25,743	100%	32.9%

Outcome	Dangerous Weapon Involvement	Count	2021-22		2022-23		2023-24			
			% Action Type Total	% Year Total	Count	% Action Type Total	% Year Total	Count	% Action Type Total	% Year Total
No school response	No Dangerous Weapon	610	98.4%	0.8%	899	100%	1.0%	724	97.1%	0.9%
	Dangerous Weapon	10	1.6%	0.6%	0	-	-	22	0.0%	0.0%
	Total	620	100%	0.8%	899	100%	1.0%	746	100%	1.0%
Other	No Dangerous Weapon	1,548	97.9%	2.0%	1,847	98.0%	2.1%	2,606	97.3%	3.4%
	Dangerous Weapon	33	2.1%	2.0%	37	2.0%	2.0%	73	2.7%	5.1%
	Total	1,581	100%	2.0%	1,884	100%	2.1%	2,679	100%	3.4%
Out-of-school suspension	No Dangerous Weapon	49,100	97.2%	64.5%	55,578	97.3%	64.4%	47,610	97.7%	62.0%
	Dangerous Weapon	1,403	2.8%	83.0%	1,557	2.7%	82.8%	1,108	2.3%	77.1%
	Total	50,503	100%	64.9%	57,135	100%	64.8%	48,718	100%	62.2%

Outcome	Dangerous Weapon Involvement	Count	2021-22		2022-23			2023-24		
			% Action Type Total	% Year Total	Count	% Action Type Total	% Year Total	Count	% Action Type Total	% Year Total
Removal by hearing officer†	No Dangerous Weapon	4	100%	0.0%	6	100%	0.0%	4	100%	0.0%
	Dangerous Weapon	0	-	-	0	-	-	0	-	-
	Total	4	100%	0.0%	6	100%	0.0%	4	100%	0.0%
Student requested transfer	No Dangerous Weapon	54	96.4%	0.1%	63	85.1%	0.1%	48	84.2%	0.1%
	Dangerous Weapon	2	3.6%	0.1%	11	14.9%	0.6%	9	15.8%	0.6%
	Total	56	100%	0.1%	74	100%	0.1%	57	100%	0.1%
Student withdrew†	No Dangerous Weapon	91	84.3%	0.1%	102	83.6%	0.1%	-	-	-
	Dangerous Weapon	17	15.7%	1.0%	20	16.4%	1.1%	-	-	-
	Total	108	100%	0.1%	122	100%	0.1%	-	-	-

Outcome	Dangerous Weapon Involvement	Count	2021-22		2022-23			2023-24		
			% Action Type Total	% Year Total	Count	% Action Type Total	% Year Total	Count	% Action Type Total	% Year Total
Student withdrew with pupil withdrawal agreement*	No									
	Dangerous Weapon	-	-	-	-	-	-	108	80.6%	0.1%
	Dangerous Weapon	-	-	-	-	-	-	26	19.4%	1.8%
	Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	134	100%	0.2%
Student withdrew without pupil withdrawal agreement*	No									
	Dangerous Weapon	-	-	-	-	-	-	50	92.6%	0.1%
	Dangerous Weapon	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	7.4%	0.3%
	Total	-	-	-	-	-	-	54	100%	0.1%
Unilateral Removal‡	No									
	Dangerous Weapon	9	60.0%	0.0%	9	47.4%	0.0%	11	64.7%	0.0%
	Dangerous Weapon	6	40.0%	0.4%	10	52.6%	0.5%	6	35.3%	0.4%
	Total	15	100%	0.0%	19	100%	0.0%	17	100%	0.0%

Outcome	Dangerous Weapon Involvement	2021-22			2022-23			2023-24		
		Count	% Action Type Total	% Year Total	Count	% Action Type Total	% Year Total	Count	% Action Type Total	% Year Total
Total	No Dangerous Weapon	76,118	97.8%	97.8%	86,290	97.9%	97.9%	76,841	98.2%	98.2%
	Dangerous Weapon	1,691	2.2%	2.2%	1,880	2.1%	2.1%	1,438	1.8%	1.8%
	Total	77,809	100%	100%	88,170	100%	100%	78,279	100%	100%

Table Notes: The data in this table is the counts of disciplinary actions students received by disciplinary action type and dangerous weapon incident types. The full list of disciplinary actions with definitions is included in [Appendix C](#). In this table, expulsion and exclusion are combined. Student requested transfer includes both within district and to another district. This data does not represent the number of students whose behavior was reported as a dangerous weapons incident type because students can receive more than one disciplinary action per incident. This does not represent the number of students disciplined by type as students may receive the same disciplinary action more than once per school year. This data excludes “Law enforcement referral” and “School-related arrest” which are other disciplinary consequences schools may use instead of or in addition consequences included here.

†Indicates a disciplinary action discontinued after the 2022-23 school year.

*Indicates new disciplinary actions that were introduced at the start of the 2023-24 school year.

†Indicates a disciplinary action used only with students receiving special education services.

Student Suspension/Expulsion Status at the Time of an Incident

Rarely, at the time of an incident, a student can already be suspended or expelled from school. During the 2023-24 school year, 1,101 students were already suspended or expelled at the time of an incident. Of those 1,108, eight students, representing 0.8% of those already under suspension/expulsion were reported as having a dangerous weapon incident type, while 99.3% were reported with another incident type. At the time of an incident, 75,131 students were not under suspension and expulsion. Of those, 1,346 students, or 1.8% of students not suspended or expelled at the time of an incident, were reported with a dangerous weapon incident type in DIRS. These figures highlight the relative infrequency of which students are suspended or expelled at the time they are reported for another incident and the relative infrequency of dangerous weapon incidents.

Table 5. Student Under Suspension/Expulsion at the Time of an Incident, 2021-22 through 2023-24

Suspension/Expulsion Status	Dangerous Weapon Involvement	2021-22		2022-23		2023-24	
		Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Not under current suspension/expulsion	No						
	Dangerous Weapon	66,522	97.7%	74,876	97.8%	73,785	98.2%
	Dangerous Weapon	1,552	2.3%	1,716	2.2%	1,346	1.8%
	Total	68,064	100%	76,583	100%	75,131	100%
Under current suspension/expulsion	No						
	Dangerous Weapon	766	98.6%	1,082	98.2%	1,093	99.3%
	Dangerous Weapon	11	1.4%	20	1.8%	8	0.7%
	Total	777	100%	1,102	100%	1,101	100%

Table Note: The data in this table counts students by involvement in an incident as an offender. As students may be involved in multiple incidents in a given school year, the numbers presented are greater than the number of students involved in incidents over the course of a school year. Furthermore, as any suspension or expulsion would be reported in DIRS, the incidents for which the students who were reported as offenders in an incident while they were suspended or expelled were suspended or expelled for would be represented in the data given here, unless they were expelled during the 2020-21 school year with an end date in the 2021-22 school year. These counts do not reflect the number of incidents involving a dangerous weapon as incidents involving a dangerous weapon with unknown/unenrolled offenders are excluded from data involving disciplinary consequences.

Law Enforcement Involvement

Referrals to Law Enforcement

In addition to the disciplinary actions reported in DIRS, LEAs also must report in DIRS when they refer students to law enforcement. In 2023-24, students were referred to law enforcement 3,923 times. Of those referrals, 246 were related to the student being reported as an offender for a dangerous weapons incident type. Of law enforcement referrals, 93.7% were associated with incident types other than the dangerous weapon incident types. Law enforcement referrals were uncommon during 2023-24. Students were reported as offenders for incidents in DIRS and not referred to law enforcement 72,309 times. The times students are referred to law enforcement, however, they are more likely to be reported as offenders for dangerous weapon incident types, than the times they are not referred to law enforcement. Only 1.5% of the times students were not referred to law enforcement was the student’s reported incident type a dangerous weapon incident type, compared to 6.3% of the times for students referred to law enforcement.

Table 6. Referrals to Law Enforcement, 2021-22 through 2023-24

Outcome	Dangerous Weapon Involvement	2021-22		2022-23		2023-24	
		Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Not Referred to Law Enforcement	No Dangerous Weapon	69,023	98.2%	79,577	98.2%	71,201	98.5%
	Dangerous Weapon	1,285	1.8%	1,485	1.8%	1,108	1.5%
	Total	70,308	100%	81,062	100%	72,309	100%
Referred to Law Enforcement	No Dangerous Weapon	5,543	94.2%	4,718	93.5%	3,677	93.7%
	Dangerous Weapon	337	5.8%	327	6.5%	246	6.3%
	Total	5,790	100%	5,045	100%	3,923	100%
Total	Total	76,098	100%	86,107	100%	76,232	100%

Table Notes: This table counts students by incident. The counts given are greater than the total number of students reported as offenders for incidents in DIRS in each of the years given as students may be reported as offenders in DIRS more than once in the same school year. These counts do not reflect the number of incidents involving a dangerous

weapon as incidents involving a dangerous weapon with unknown/unenrolled offenders are excluded from data involving disciplinary consequences.

School-Related Arrests

When a student is referred to law enforcement, the LEA is required to report in DIRS if that referral led to a school-related arrest. In 2023-24, there were 3,923 law enforcement referrals. Of those referrals, 138 led to a school-related arrest. Of the school-related arrests, 24 were associated with the student being reported with a dangerous weapon incident type. Of students arrested, 17.4% were reported for having a dangerous weapon. In contrast, of the 3,785 students who were not arrested after a referral to law enforcement, 222 of them, or 5.9%, were reported for having a dangerous weapon. Interpretation of this information is difficult. The dangerous weapons incident types include a variety of dangerous weapons ranging from pocketknives and toy guns to fire arms and bombs, which may shape law enforcement’s responses to incidents. Also not included in this analysis is the grade or level of the student or if there student had previously been referred to law enforcement, which could affect the response from law enforcement.

Table 7. School-Related Arrests, 2021-22 through 2023-24

Outcome	Dangerous Weapon Involvement	2021-22		2022-23		2023-24	
		Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Not Arrested	No Dangerous Weapon	5,345	94.7%	4,603	93.9%	3,563	94.1%
	Dangerous Weapon	302	5.3%	297	6.1%	222	5.9%
	Total	5,647	100%	4,900	100%	3,785	100%
Arrested	No Dangerous Weapon	108	75.5%	115	79.3%	114	82.6%
	Dangerous Weapon	35	24.5%	30	20.7%	24	17.4%
	Total	143	100%	145	100%	138	100%
Total	Total	5,790	100%	5045	100%	3,923	100%

Table Notes: This table counts students referred to law enforcement by incident. The counts given are greater than the total number of students reported as offenders for incidents in DIRS in each of the years given as students may be reported

as offenders in DIRS more than once in the same school year. These counts do not reflect the number of incidents involving dangerous weapons as incidents involving a dangerous weapon with unknown/unenrolled offenders are excluded from data involving disciplinary consequences.

Disciplinary Actions Issued by Grade for Dangerous Weapon Incident Types

During the 2023-24 school year most disciplinary actions for dangerous weapon incident types were given to students in grades 6 through 11, like the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school years. Over 160 disciplinary actions were reported for each grade between 6 and 11. Disciplinary actions for dangerous weapons gradually increased from six for kindergarteners to 105 for fifth graders during the 2023-24 school year. On the other side of the high period during middle school and grades 9 through 11, only 101 disciplinary actions for dangerous weapon incidents were reported for students in grade 12. It is difficult to assess to what extent the differences in number of disciplinary actions reflect differences in school responses to dangerous weapons by grade level and to what extent they reflect differences in the frequency of which students are reported as offenders for dangerous weapon incidents as they progress through school. This data includes only the disciplinary actions reported in DIRS and listed in [Appendix C](#). Reports with the disciplinary action type of “Other” may capture some of the alternatives to discipline students received but not necessarily all of them, but it is unclear what that “Other” is or if it trends with grade level.

Table 8. Disciplinary Actions Reported by Grade Level for Dangerous Weapons Incidents, 2021-22 through 2023-24

Grade	2021-22		2022-23		2023-24	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
K	4	0.2%	5	0.3%	6	0.4%
1	21	1.2%	31	1.6%	23	1.6%
2	39	2.3%	53	2.8%	31	2.2%
3	56	3.3%	76	4.0%	41	2.9%
4	78	4.6%	105	5.6%	77	5.4%
5	111	6.6%	163	8.7%	105	7.4%
6	210	12.5%	214	11.4%	174	12.3%
7	246	14.6%	245	13.0%	185	13.1%
8	234	13.9%	251	13.4%	164	11.6%
9	192	11.4%	240	12.8%	172	12.1%
10	198	11.8%	214	11.4%	169	11.9%
11	181	10.8%	169	9.0%	168	11.9%
12	111	6.6%	114	6.1%	101	7.1%
Total	1,681	100%	1,880	100%	1,416	100%

Table note: Counts are of disciplinary actions reported in DIRS excluding “No school response”. Referrals to law enforcement and school-related arrests are not included in this count. Students who are referred to law enforcement or arrested are also included in this count. This table does not reflect all incidents in DIRS involving a dangerous weapon as incidents with unknown or unenrolled offenders are excluded from discipline metrics. These counts also do not reflect the number of students disciplined as students can receive more than one disciplinary action for the same incident.

Dangerous Weapons by Type

Dangerous weapon incidents reported in DIRS reflect three incident types: “Weapon”, “Bomb”, and “Arson”. “Weapon” incidents are reported with details about the specific weapon. When a student is reported as an offender with a weapon, the LEA must report the number and types of weapons. Table reviews the number of weapons of each type reported in Minnesota schools during the 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24 school years. Across all three years, “Knives” were the most common, followed by “Pocketknives less than 2 ½ inches”. In 2023-24, the third most common type of weapon reported in Minnesota schools was “Replica/toy gun”, while in both 2021-22 and 2022-23, it was “Pocketknife 2 ½ inches or greater”. The fifth most common type of weapon reported in all three years was “Sharp object”, such as razor blades.

While the types of dangerous weapons and the frequencies of which they are found in school are relatively stable year-to-year, there are exceptions. Reports of “Pellet/BB/air gun” decreased from 149 in 2023-22 to 86 in 2023-24, similarly while 77 “Stun guns/Taser guns” were reported in 2022-23, only 39 were reported in 2023-24. These reflect the most dramatic decreases in an overall picture of decreasing number of weapons in Minnesota’s schools. In 2023-24, 1,488 weapons were reported in Minnesota’s schools, down from 1,956 in 2022-23 and from 1,791 in 2021-22. These overall decreases matter in context though. While many types of dangerous weapons became less common, “Long guns”, “Hand guns”, and “Bombs” did not become less common in 2023-24. During the 2023-24 school year, 13 “Long guns” were reported in Minnesota’s schools. This is consistent with the 14 reported in 2022-23 and the 11 reported in 2021-22. In both the 2023-24 and the 2022-23 school years, 44 “Hand guns” were reported each year. This was, however, lower than in 2021-22, when 58 “Hand guns” were reported. After two years with no reported “Bombs”, four “Bombs” were reported in Minnesota schools during the 2023-24 school year. The relative stability in the number of these dangerous weapons brought to schools warrants continued analysis and attention.

Table 9. Counts and Frequencies of Dangerous Weapons by Type, 2021-22 through 2023-24

Dangerous Weapon Type	2021-22		2022-23		2023-24	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Knife	406	22.7%	406	20.8%	340	22.8%
Pocketknife, less than 2 ½ inches	338	18.9%	345	17.6%	245	16.5%
Replica/toy gun	155	8.7%	221	11.3%	196	13.2%
Pocketknife, 2 ½ inches or greater	233	13.0%	254	13.0%	185	12.4%
Sharp object (ex. razor blade)	165	9.2%	202	10.3%	143	9.6%
Pellet/BB/air gun	148	8.3%	149	7.6%	86	5.8%
Mace/noxious substance	82	4.6%	96	4.9%	79	5.3%
Blunt object (ex. chains)	53	3.0%	63	3.2%	56	3.8%
Arson	56	3.1%	77	3.9%	50	3.4%
Hand gun	58	3.2%	44	2.2%	44	3.0%
Stun gun/Taser gun	70	3.9%	77	3.9%	39	2.6%
Long gun	11	0.6%	14	0.7%	13	0.9%
Paintball gun	16	0.9%	8	0.4%	8	0.5%
Bomb	0	-	0	-	4	0.3%
Total	1791	100%	1956	100%	1488	100%

Table Notes: This table represents the number of dangerous weapons reported in DIRS in the incident types of “Weapon”, “Bomb”, and “Arson”. The numbers given for “Bomb” and “Arson” is based on the number of offenders associated those incident types. All other weapons listed are part of the “Weapon” incident type, which counts weapons individually by offender within a given incident. These counts include dangerous weapons from incidents in which the offender was unknown or not enrolled in a school in the 2023-24 data only.

Context and School Costs of Dangerous Weapon Incidents

Time of Dangerous Weapon Incidents

During the 2023-24 school year, there were 1,274 incidents involving dangerous weapons. Of those incidents, 1,199 or 94.1% occurred “During school hours” while 75 or 5.9% occurred “Outside of school hours”. This is similar to the 2022-23 school year when 94.4% of dangerous weapon incidents occurred “During school hours” and 5.6% occurred “Outside of school hours”.

Table 10. Time of Dangerous Weapon Incidents

Time	2021-22		2022-23		2023-24	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
During school hours	1,444	92.4%	1,637	94.4%	1,199	94.1%
Outside of school hours	119	7.6%	98	5.6%	75	5.9%
Total	1,563	100%	1,735	100%	1,274	100%

Table Note: In the 2023-24 data only, incidents counted include all incidents with dangerous weapons including those with unknown/unenrolled offenders.

Location of Dangerous Weapon Incidents

During the 2023-24 school year incidents involving dangerous weapons mostly took place in the “Classroom”, the “Hallway”, or “Other indoor area”. Incidents that took place in “Classrooms” were 431 incidents or 33.8% of incidents, while 231 incidents or 18.1% of incidents took place in “Hallways”, and 198 incidents or 15.5% of incidents took place in “Other indoor areas”. Across the period of 2021-22 through 2023-24, dangerous weapon incidents happened in different school locations with the same pattern of frequency except for “Restrooms”, which were the location of 4.0% of dangerous weapon incidents in 2021-22, 5.0% in 2022-23, and 7.1% in 2023-24. This presents concerns about health and safety for students, while also protecting student privacy.

Location	2021-22		2022-23		2023-24	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Classroom	557	35.6%	590	34.0%	431	33.8%
Hallway	260	16.6%	310	17.9%	231	18.1%
Other indoor area	216	13.8%	232	13.4%	198	15.5%
Other outdoor area (on campus)	130	8.3%	160	9.2%	110	8.6%
School bus	119	7.6%	152	8.8%	98	7.7%
Restroom	63	4.0%	87	5.0%	91	7.1%
Locker	63	4.0%	87	5.0%	66	5.2%
Parking lot	69	4.4%	49	2.8%	42	3.3%
Off campus	45	2.9%	32	1.8%	27	2.1%
Online	7	0.4%	2	0.1%	2	0.2%
Total	1,563	100%	1,735	100%	1,274	100%

Table Notes: Incidents may have more than one reported location. Totals reflect the number of reported incidents not the number of reported locations. In the 2023-24 data only, incidents counted include all incidents involving dangerous weapons including those with unknown/unenrolled offenders.

Value of School Property Damage Associated with Dangerous Weapons Incidents

During the 2023-24 school year of the 1,274 dangerous weapon incidents, only two were associated with property damage costs to schools. In both cases the value of the property damage was between \$1 and \$500. These two incidents represent 0.2% of the incidents involving dangerous weapons during the 2023-24 school.

Value of Property Damage	2021-22		2022-23		2023-24	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
\$0	1,552	99.3%	1,725	99.4%	1,272	99.8%
\$1-\$500	10	0.6%	9	0.5%	2	0.2%
Over \$500	1	0.1%	1	0.1%	0	-
Total	1,563	100%	1,735	100%	1,274	100%

Table Note: In the 2023-24 data only, incidents counted include all incidents involving dangerous weapons including those with unknown/unenrolled offenders.

People Harmed by Dangerous Weapon Incidents

Types of People Harmed by Dangerous Weapon Incidents

During the 2023-24 school year, 1,207 of the 1,274 incidents did not include reports of any people harmed. People who are harmed are called victims and are reported by type. In the incidents when victims were reported, the victims were “Student enrolled at the school which reported the incident” 35 times, “Student from another school” 27 times, “Teacher” three times, and “District employee” two times. This pattern in reported victim types is similar to the 2022-23 school year for “Student from another school”, “Teacher”, and “District employee”, but this does not mean the number of victims among those victim types has been stable as there is not a one-to-one relationship between those victim types and people. A comparison can be made, however, about the number of “Student enrolled at the school which reported the incident” who were victims of dangerous weapons incidents during the 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24 school years, because there is a one-to-one relationship between that victim type and individual students. The 35 students from 2023-24 is a strong decrease compared to both the 65 students in 2022-23 and the 85 students in 2021-22.

Type of Person Harmed	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
Student enrolled at the school which reported the incident	85	65	35
Student from another school	30	26	27
Teacher	4	5	3
District employee	9	5	2
None	1441	1634	1207
Total	1,563	1,735	1,274

Table Note: Totals may be greater than the sum of their parts because a single incident may have more than one type of victim reported. In the 2023-24 data only, victims include victims from incidents with unknown/unenrolled offenders.

Reported Level of Injury

During the 2023-24 school year, of the 67 reported victim types, 58 had “No injury” reported, eight had “Injury – not serious” reported, and one had “Injury – serious” reported. As the level of injury is reported by victim type in DIRS, the number of individuals who were injured cannot be determined only from this data.

Level of Injury	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
No injury	109	97	58
Injury – not serious	11	4	8
Injury – serious	4	0	1
Total	122	101	67

Table Note: Level of injury is reported in DIRS at the victim type level. Victim types do not represent individuals on one-to-one basis except among victims reported as “Student enrolled at the school which reported the incident”. Multiple victim types and therefore levels of injury may be reported for the same incident. Totals given are number of incidents with victim types reported and may be less than the sum of their parts. In the 2023-24 data only, victims included include victims from incidents with unknown/unenrolled offenders.

Reported Medical Costs

During the 2023-24 school year, none of the 67 reported victim types had medical costs. As the level of medical costs is reported by victim type in DIRS, the number of individuals who did not have medical costs cannot be determined only from this data.

Reported Medical Cost	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24
\$0	121	101	67
\$1 - \$500	0	0	0
Over \$500	3	0	0
Total	122	101	67

Table Note: Reported Medical Costs are reported in DIRS at the victim type level. Victim types do not represent individuals on one-to-one basis except among students with known MARSS information. Multiple victim types and therefore medical costs may be reported for the same incident. Totals given are number of incidents with victim types reported and may be less than the sum of their parts. In the 2023-24 data only, victims included include victims from incidents with unknown/unenrolled offenders.

Conclusion

The 2023-24 data from DIRS shows school districts and charter schools in Minnesota reported fewer disciplinary actions and incidents compared to the 2022-23 school year, but there was variation within those overall decreases. While LEAs reported fewer dangerous weapons during the 2023-24 school year, they reported “Hand guns,” “Long guns,” and “Bombs” were present at schools at the same frequency as in 2022-23. Beyond reporting fewer disciplinary actions in response to dangerous weapons overall, in 2023-24, LEAs used disciplinary actions differently in response to dangerous weapons than in 2022-23. They used “Expulsion/exclusion” less and “Out-of-school suspension” and “Administrative transfer” more. Furthermore, against the trend of overall decreases in the number of disciplinary actions, school districts and charter schools reported more disciplinary actions in response to incident types not involving dangerous weapons than in 2022-23. An important point of consistency from 2022-23 to 2023-24 was the grade level of students disciplined for possessing or using a dangerous weapon, which was again concentrated in grades 6 through 11. It is unclear to what extent this reflects differences in student behavior, school response, or other factors based on the data in DIRS. This reflects a central limitation of DIRS data: it is descriptive with limited information about causes and interactions. Even a complete incident report only includes one piece of student behavior data, and this data is not linked to the outcomes reported. When looking at dangerous weapon incidents specifically, these limitations are compounded by the diversity of weapon types and the relative infrequency of dangerous weapon incidents. Aggregate analyses across larger groups of years or using other data sets could provide more details to strengthen the understanding of student discipline and dangerous weapons in Minnesota schools and better inform policy.

Appendix A: DIRS Reporting Requirements 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24

Reporting in DIRS is set by requirements derived from Minnesota Statutes, [section 121A.06](#) and [section 121A.53](#). Reported incidents must meet at least one of the reporting requirements below. When applicable, changes to the reporting requirements are noted. Definitions of incident types and disciplinary action types are included in appendices [B](#) and [C](#), respectively.

Incident Types that Must be Reported:

- Physical assault of a district employee by a student
- Possession or use of a dangerous weapon in a school zone

Disciplinary Outcomes that Must be Reported:

Disciplinary Actions:

- In-school suspension
- Out-of-school suspension
- Expulsion
- Exclusion
- Administrative transfer
- Student requested transfer
- Student withdrew from school – used in 2021-22 and 2022-23 only
- Student withdrew from school with pupil withdrawal agreement – used in 2023-24 only
- Student withdrew from school without pupil withdrawal agreement – used in 2023-24 only
- Unilateral removal to an alternative setting – only used for students receiving special education services
- Removal by Hearing Officer – only used for students receiving special education services

Law Enforcement Involvement

- Referral to law enforcement
- School-related arrest

Appendix B: 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24 DIRS Incident Type Definitions and Severity Rankings

Incident Type	23-24 Severity Rank	21-22 & 22-23 Severity Rank	Other required details for incident type	Definition
Homicide	1	1	None collected	Requires incident report that includes at least one victim.
Weapon	2	2	<p>LEAs must identify the number of each type of weapon involved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Long Gun • Handgun • Pellet/BB/Air Gun • Paintball Gun • Replica/Toy Gun • Knife • Pocketknife, less than 2 ½ inches • Pocketknife, 2 ½ inches or more • Blunt Object • Sharp Object - not a knife or pocketknife • Mace/Noxious Substance • Stun Guns/Taser Gun <p>For “Long Gun” and “Handgun” incidents, LEAs must also answer if</p>	<p>Dangerous weapon incident type</p> <p>All incidents involving the use or possession of a dangerous weapon in a school zone must be reported (Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.06, subdivision 1(1)). Any incident involving a dangerous weapon must be reported, even if there is no disciplinary action or identifiable student. For example, a weapon may be found on school property but possession is not tied to a particular student.</p> <p>Refer to the regulations listed below to determine whether a weapon meets the criteria for a dangerous weapon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minnesota Statutes, section 609.02, subdivision 6 <p>"Dangerous weapon" means any firearm, whether loaded or unloaded, or any device designed as a weapon and capable of producing death or great bodily harm, any combustible or flammable liquid or other device or instrumentality that, in the manner it is used or intended to be used, is calculated or likely to produce death or great bodily harm, or any fire that is used to produce death or great bodily harm.</p> <p>As used in this subdivision, "flammable liquid" means any liquid having a flash point below 100 degrees Fahrenheit and having a vapor pressure not exceeding 40 pounds per square inch (absolute) at 100 degrees Fahrenheit but does not include intoxicating liquor</p>

Incident Type	23-24 Severity Rank	21-22 & 22-23 Severity Rank	Other required details for incident type	Definition
			<p>the gun was load, if the gun was cased, and if the gun was in the vehicle of a car.</p>	<p>as defined in section 340A.101. As used in this subdivision, "combustible liquid" is a liquid having a flash point at or above 100 degrees Fahrenheit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> United States Code, title 18, section 930(g)(2) <p>The term "dangerous weapon" means a weapon, device, instrument, material, or substance, animate or inanimate, that is used for, or is readily capable of, causing death or serious bodily injury, except that such term does not include a pocket knife with a blade of less than 2 ½ inches in length.</p> United States Code, title 18, section 921(a)(3) <p>The term "firearm" means (A) any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive; (B) the frame or receiver of any such weapon; (C) any firearm muffler or firearm silencer; or (D) any destructive device. Such term does not include an antique firearm.</p> United States Code, title 18, section 921(a)(3)(4) <p>any explosive, incendiary, or poison gas— (i) bomb, (ii) grenade, (iii) rocket having a propellant charge of more than four ounces, (iv) missile having an explosive or incendiary charge of more than one-quarter ounce, (v) mine, or (vi) device similar to any of the devices described in the preceding clauses;</p> <p>any type of weapon (other than a shotgun or a shotgun shell which the Attorney General finds is generally recognized as particularly suitable for sporting purposes) by whatever name known which will, or which may be readily converted to, expel a projectile by the</p>

Incident Type	23-24 Severity Rank	21-22 & 22-23 Severity Rank	Other required details for incident type	Definition
Bomb	3	3	None collected	Dangerous weapon incident type

action of an explosive or other propellant, and which has any barrel with a bore of more than one-half inch in diameter; and

any combination of parts either designed or intended for use in converting any device into any destructive device described in subparagraph (A) or (B) and from which a destructive device may be readily assembled.

The term “destructive device” shall not include any device which is neither designed nor redesigned for use as a weapon; any device, although originally designed for use as a weapon, which is redesigned for use as a signaling, pyrotechnic, line throwing, safety, or similar device; surplus ordnance sold, loaned, or given by the Secretary of the Army pursuant to the provisions of section 4684 (2), 4685, or 4686 of title 10; or any other device which the Attorney General finds is not likely to be used as a weapon, is an antique, or is a rifle which the owner intends to use solely for sporting, recreational or cultural purposes.

- Items outside of the definition of firearm include BB guns, air guns, paint guns, replica/toy guns and cap guns. These items do not fit the federal definition of a firearm because they do not expel a projectile by the action of an explosive. Accordingly, a school district/charter school is not mandated under [Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.44](#) to expel a student for having one of the weapons named above. A school district may include those guns under its definition of a weapon as delineated in its disciplinary policy.

Incident Type	23-24 Severity Rank	21-22 & 22-23 Severity Rank	Other required details for incident type	Definition
Arson	4	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With accelerant • Without accelerant 	<p>Dangerous weapon incident type</p> <p>Intentional destruction of, or damage to, property by means of fire or explosives. LEAs must report whether or not accelerant was involved.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accelerant – any combustible or flammable liquid • Without Accelerant – no combustible or flammable liquid
Assault	5	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical • Sexual 	<p>Requires incident report that includes at least one victim.</p> <p>LEAs must choose between either physical or sexual assault when reporting an assault.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical assault – touching or striking of another individual intended to inflict bodily harm to an individual. Does not include minor physical contact. • Sexual assault – intentional touching of a sexual nature, such as rape, fondling, and molestation. Students of all genders can be victims of sexual assault. <p>Assaults involving a weapon are reported under weapons incidents because weapon incidents have a higher severity ranking.</p>
Hazing	6	6	None collected	<p>Requires incident report that includes at least one victim.</p> <p>Committing an act against a student or coercing a student(s) into committing an act that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of that student(s), in order for the student to be initiated into or affiliated with a student organization. A student organization does not include a gang, and is rather a group, club, or organization having students as its primary members or participants.</p>

Incident Type	23-24 Severity Rank	21-22 & 22-23 Severity Rank	Other required details for incident type	Definition
Robbery (using force)	7	7	None collected	<p>Taking or attempting to take anything of value personal property that is owned by another person or organization, under confrontational circumstances by force, or threat of force or violence and/or by putting the victim in fear.</p> <p>Robberies involving a weapon(s) should be reported as weapons incidents because the severity ranking for weapons incidents is higher.</p>
Illegal Drugs	8	8	<p>LEAs must select which activity the student was doing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possession • Use • Sale/Distribution • Request/Solicitation <p>LEAs report all drugs involved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amphetamines • Crack/Cocaine • Ecstasy/MDMA • Inhalant • LSD/ Psychedelics • Methamphetamines • Other <p>Note: During the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school</p>	<p>LEAs report this activity when a student possesses or is involved in the sale of a controlled substance, as identified by Minnesota Statutes, section 152.02, that the student does not have a prescription for. This activity does not include alcohol or tobacco in any school year included in this report and does not include cannabis during the 2023-24 school year.</p> <p>Possession – possession of an illegal drug on school grounds or during off-campus school activities (including while taking school transportation)</p> <p>Use – use of an illegal drug on school grounds or during off-campus school activities (including while taking school transportation)</p> <p>Request/Solicitation – seeking an illegal drug on school grounds or during off-campus school activities (including while taking school transportation)</p> <p>Sale/Distribution – selling, distributing, or seeking to sell an illegal drug on school grounds or during off-campus school activities (including while taking school transportation)</p> <p>During all the school years in this report, 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24, “Alcohol” and “Tobacco” were separate incident types designated specifically for incidents involving only one of those substances. LEAS and should not have reported them in this category or “Other.”</p>

Incident Type	23-24 Severity Rank	21-22 & 22-23 Severity Rank	Other required details for incident type	Definition
			<p>years, marijuana was also a drug type that schools could report under this incident type. During the 2023-24 school year, it was removed from here and reported as “Cannabis.”</p>	<p>During the 2023-24 school year, “Cannabis” was added as a separate incident type designated specifically for incidents involving only it. LEAS and should not have reported incidents involving cannabis in this category or “Other.”</p>
<p>Controlled substances (prescription)</p>	9	9	<p>LEAs had to report if the student’s behavior was either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possession/Use • Solicitation/Sale 	<p>LEAs report this activity when a student possesses medication that is prescribed to the student, but the possession is against school policy. In 2023-24, only this included medical cannabinoids. School district/charter school policy must also be consistent with state law:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.221 – addresses when it is appropriate for a student to possess and use asthma inhalers at school • Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.2205 – addresses when it is appropriate for a student to possess and use non-syringe injectors of epinephrine at school <p>Controlled substances are identified under Schedules I, II, III, IV or V of the Controlled Substance Act. The United States Code and Minnesota statutes define controlled substances. Under Minnesota law, the term does not include distilled spirits, wine, malt beverages, intoxicating liquors, or tobacco. Relevant state and federal laws are listed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minnesota Statutes, section 152.01, subdivision 4 – defines controlled substance • Minnesota Statutes, section 152.02 – defines the five schedules of controlled substances

Incident Type	23-24 Severity Rank	21-22 & 22-23 Severity Rank	Other required details for incident type	Definition
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 21 U.S.C. § 812 (c) – establishes the five controlled substance schedules and the classes of substances in each schedule
Bomb Threat	10	10	None collected	MDE does not specifically define student behaviors that must be classified as bomb threats. LEAs use this reporting category based on their discipline policies.
Terroristic Threats	11	11	None collected	MDE does not specifically define student behaviors that must be classified as terroristic threats. LEAs use this reporting category based on their discipline policies.
Fighting	12	12	None collected	Two or more persons mutually participate in the use of force or physical violence that may require intervention to end the altercation, physical restraint, or results in injury. Fighting does not include conduct rising to the level of physical assault, nor does it include roughhousing or play fighting.
Bullying/ Harassment (includes cyber bullying)	13	13	Bullying or harassment on the basis of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disability Race, color, or national origin Religion Sex Sexual orientation Gender identity Sexual harassment Socioeconomic status Other 	Requires incident report that includes at least one victim. LEAs must select all applicable categories for which the victim was bullied or harassed. Report conduct that meets the definition of bullying or cyberbullying under Minnesota statute and/or the definition of “harassment or bullying” provided by the U.S. Department of Education’s Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.031, subdivision 2: (e) “Bullying” means intimidating, threatening, abusive, or harming conduct that is objectively offensive and:

Incident Type	23-24 Severity Rank	21-22 & 22-23 Severity Rank	Other required details for incident type	Definition
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Unknown 	<p>(1) there is an actual or perceived imbalance of power between the student engaging in prohibited conduct and the target of the behavior and the conduct is repeated or forms a pattern; or</p> <p>(2) materially and substantially interferes with a student's educational opportunities or performance or ability to participate in school functions or activities or receive school benefits, services, or privileges.</p> <p>(f) "Cyberbullying" means bullying using technology or other electronic communication, including but not limited to a transfer of a sign, signal, writing, image, sound, or data, including a post on a social network Internet website or forum, transmitted through a computer, cell phone, or other electronic device.</p> <p>(g) Intimidating, threatening, abusive, or harming conduct may involve, but is not limited to, conduct that causes physical harm to a student or a student's property or causes a student to be in reasonable fear of harm to person or property; under Minnesota common law, violates a student's reasonable expectation of privacy, defames a student, or constitutes intentional infliction of emotional distress against a student; is directed at any student or students, including those based on a person's actual or perceived race, ethnicity, color, creed, religion, national origin, immigration status, sex, marital status, familial status, socioeconomic status, physical appearance, sexual orientation, including gender identity and expression, academic status related to student performance, disability, or status with regard to public assistance, age, or any additional characteristic defined in chapter 363A. However,</p>

Incident Type	23-24 Severity Rank	21-22 & 22-23 Severity Rank	Other required details for incident type	Definition
				<p>prohibited conduct need not be based on any particular characteristic defined in this paragraph or chapter 363A.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to the CRDC: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “bullying or harassment” refers to intimidation or abusive behavior toward a student based on an actual or perceived characteristic (see specific definitions as applicable). Harassing conduct may take many forms, including verbal acts and name-calling, as well as non-verbal behavior, such as graphic and written statements, or conduct that is physically threatening, harmful, or humiliating. ○ Disability – intimidation or abusive behavior toward a student based on actual or perceived disability. ○ Race, color, or national origin - intimidation or abusive behavior toward a student based on actual or perceived race, color or national origin (including ancestry and ethnicity). ○ Religion – intimidation or abusive behavior toward a student based on actual or perceived religion. (see the CRDC religions section for a complete list of religions provided by the CRDC) ○ Sex – harassment or bullying based on sex stereotyping includes acts of verbal, nonverbal, or physical aggression, intimidation, or hostility based on sex or sex stereotyping, but not involving conduct of a sexual nature. All students can be victims of harassment or bullying on the basis of sex, and the harasser or bully and the victim can be of the same sex. ○ Sexual Orientation – intimidation or abusive behavior toward a student based on actual or perceived sexual orientation.

Incident Type	23-24 Severity Rank	21-22 & 22-23 Severity Rank	Other required details for incident type	Definition
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Gender Identity – intimidation or abusive behavior toward a student whose gender identity, defined as a person’s inherent sense of gender, whether masculine, feminine, or another gender, whether or not their gender identity corresponds to their sex assigned at birth. Gender identity is internal and may not necessarily be visible to others. ○ Sexual Harassment – unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature, such as unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal, nonverbal, or physical conduct or communication of a sexual nature. ○ Socioeconomic status – intimidation or abusive behavior toward a student based on actual or perceived socioeconomic or public assistance status. ○ Other – intimidation or abusive behavior toward a student based on actual or perceived immigration status, marital status, familial status, academic status related to student performance, age, physical appearance, or any other characteristic. ○ Unknown
Verbal Abuse	14	14	None collected	MDE does not specifically define student behaviors that must be classified as verbal abuse. LEAs use this reporting category based on their discipline policies.
Extortion	15	15	None collected	Obtaining money, property, or services from another person against their will through coercion, intimidation, or threat of physical harm.

Incident Type	23-24 Severity Rank	21-22 & 22-23 Severity Rank	Other required details for incident type	Definition
Threat/ Intimidation	16	16	None collected	MDE does not specifically define student behaviors that must be classified as threat/intimidation. LEAs use this reporting category based on their discipline policies.
Physical Contact	17	17	None collected	Intentional or unintentional physical contact between a student and another individual or individuals that is not age-appropriate and may or may not involve harm (for example, non age-appropriate pushing/shoving, hitting, knocking other individuals over, play fighting). This is distinct from actual fighting.
Disruptive/ Disorderly Conduct/ Insubordination	18	18	None collected	MDE does not specifically define student behaviors that must be classified as disruptive/disorderly conduct/insubordination. LEAs use this reporting category based on their discipline policies.
Alcohol	19	19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possession/Use • Sale/Solicitation 	LEAs are required to report if the student was either possessing/using or selling/soliciting alcohol.
Cannabis	20	Included under "Illegal Drugs"	None collected	LEAs report this activity when a student possesses or uses cannabis as defined in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 342 . This activity does not include prescribed medical cannabinoids, which LEAs report under "Controlled Substances (prescription)."
Tobacco	21	20	None collected	MDE does not specifically define student behaviors that must be classified as tobacco. LEAs use this reporting category based on their discipline policies.

Incident Type	23-24 Severity Rank	21-22 & 22-23 Severity Rank	Other required details for incident type	Definition
Academic Dishonesty	22	21	None collected	Intentional behavior including, but not limited to, plagiarism, copying another's work, cheating, or altering records.
Over-the-counter Medications Against School Policy	23	22	None collected	Report this activity when a student possesses or uses over-the-counter medication, and the possession or use is against school policy. School policy must also be consistent with state law. Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.222 provides information regarding when secondary students may have possession of or use nonprescription pain relievers.
Theft	24	23	None collected	Taking the property of another individual or the school without permission, with the intent of not returning the property to the owner. No force is involved in the taking of property.
Vandalism/ Property Related	25	24	None collected	Willful or malicious destruction or damage of school or personal property on school grounds without consent of the owner.
Gang Activity	26	25	None collected	<p>LEAs only report this incident type when they are certain gang membership contributed to an event. Conduct that is gang-motivated or related to gang membership. Examples include, but are not limited to, displaying gang symbols, gang paraphernalia, and participating in the recruitment/initiation of a student into a gang.</p> <p>A gang is an organized group characterized by turf concerns, special dress or colors, and engagement in delinquent or illegal activity.</p>

Incident Type	23-24 Severity Rank	21-22 & 22-23 Severity Rank	Other required details for incident type	Definition
Pyrotechnics	27	26	None collected	Pyrotechnics refers to firecrackers, fireworks, smoke bombs, etc., that contain flash powder, gunpowder, black powder, or any other explosive compound constructed to produce detonation or deflagration.
Technology	28	27	LEAs must report if the student used either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal device • School device 	Unauthorized access to or interception of data or systems, and other violations of the school district's technology policy.
On School Property without Permission	29	28	None collected	Being on school property without permission, including while suspended or expelled; includes breaking and entering.
Attendance	30	29	None collected	Report this activity when a student may be subject to disciplinary action for an unexcused absence according to the district's discipline policy. This may include a student's failure to attend detention due to attendance issues. In addition, consider statutory exemptions under Minnesota Statutes, section 120A.22, subdivision 12 .
Other	31	30	Includes text option for LEAs to provide details	LEAs use this reporting category based on their discipline policies when the behavior does not fit another incident type.

CRDC Religions

The CRDC Data Dictionary definition of “Harassment or Bullying on the Basis of Religion” includes the following religions:

- Agnostic refers to a person who believes that the existence or nature of an ultimate reality, such as a deity, is unknown, and probably unknowable.
- Atheist refers to a person who does not believe in the existence of a deity.
- Buddhist refers to a person who follows the religion of eastern or central Asia that grew out of the teaching of Siddhartha Gautama, the Buddha, or Enlightened One. People of this faith believe that suffering is inherent in life and that one can be liberated from it by mental and moral self-purification by following the Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Path in order to reach nirvana.
- Catholic refers to a person who follows the monotheistic religion of Catholic Christianity, especially that of the Roman Catholic Church. Followers of this faith believe the teachings of the Bible, and place emphasis on church traditions, including the historical continuity of the church, the Pope as the head of the church, and the requirement of celibacy of those in the priesthood.
- Eastern Orthodox (Russian, Greek, Other) refers to a person who follows the monotheistic religion of the Eastern Christian Church. This faith follows the teachings of the Bible and church traditions, accords primacy of honor to the Patriarch of Constantinople as head of the church, and adheres to the decisions of the First Seven Ecumenical Councils and the Byzantine Rite.
- Hindu refers to a person who observes the traditions and practices of the dominant religion of India, which include acceptance of the sanctity of the Vedas (sacred texts); the understanding of one Divine Reality manifested in multiple forms; acceptance of the laws of karma (principle of cause and effect), dharma (righteous modes of conduct), belief in reincarnation, and the ultimate spiritual goal of enlightenment (moksha).
- Islamic (Muslim) refers to a person who follows the monotheistic religion of Muslims, which includes belief in Allah as the sole deity and in Muhamad as his prophet. Practitioners of the Islamic faith follow the teachings of the Koran and practice the Five Pillars.
- Jehovah’s Witness refers to a person who follows the religion founded by Charles Taze Russell. Members witness by distributing literature and by personal evangelism of beliefs in the theocratic rule of God, the sinfulness of organized religions and governments, and an imminent millennium. The activities of Jehovah’s Witnesses are governed by the Watchtower Society which makes all major decisions, interprets the Bible, and counsels Witnesses using Watchtower materials. Members of the faith are often seen giving generously of their time in proclaiming their faith and teaching in private homes.
- Jewish (Judaism) refers to a person who identifies himself or herself as a member of the religious and/or ethnic group that descended from the ancient Hebrews and is characterized by belief in one transcendent God who revealed Himself to Abraham, Moses, and the Hebrew prophets. Jewish religious practice is based on the Hebrew Scriptures (the “Torah”) and rabbinic laws and customs.
- Mormon (Latter-day Saint) refers to a person who follows the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints tracing its modern origin to Joseph Smith and accepting the Book of Mormon as scripture. Latter-day Saints consider the following writings to be scripture: 1) The Holy Bible; 2) The Book of Mormon, Another Testament of Jesus Christ; 3) The Doctrine and Covenants; and 4) The Pearl of Great Price. Mormons are often associated with members of the faith who serve as full-time volunteer missionaries in the U.S. and abroad.
- Multiple Religions, Group refers to a group of persons demonstrating a commitment or devotion to religious faith or observance based upon multiple faiths.

- Other Christian refers to a person who follows other denominations or nondenominational religions based on the life and teachings of Jesus Christ but not described in the other religion categories.
 - Examples of these religions include Metaphysical-Christ Church Unity, Spiritualist, Unity/Unitarianist, Unity Church, Universalist, and Other Metaphysical.
- Other Religions refers to a person who follows other non-Christian religions not described in the other religion categories. Examples of these religions include the Baha’I Faith, Jainism, Shintoism, Taoism, Tenrikyo, Wicca, and Zoroastrianism.
- Protestant refers to a person who follows the monotheistic religion of Christianity that is not part of Catholic or Eastern Orthodox faith. Members of this faith affirm the Reformation principles of justification by faith alone, the priesthood of all believers, and the primacy of the Bible as the only source of revealed truth. Moreover, believers deny the universal authority of the Pope and some churches are governed by federated councils on the local, national, and international levels.
- Sikh refers to a person who follows the monotheistic religion founded by Guru Nanak in the Punjab region of South Asia. Sikhs follow the teachings of 10 gurus; study from the religion’s primary sacred text (i.e., the Guru Granth Sahib), and worship in Gurdwaras. Some members of the Sikh faith may be distinguished by the dastar (Sikh turban) and five religious articles: kesh (unshorn hair, including a beard), kanga (wooden comb), kara (steel bracelet), kachera (short trousers), and kirpan (religious sword).

Appendix C: 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24 Disciplinary Action Definitions

Disciplinary Action	Years Used	Definition
Administrative transfer	2021-22 2022-23 2023-24	Applicable when a district chooses to transfer an enrolled student to another school within the district in lieu of or in conjunction with another type of disciplinary action.
Exclusion from the school setting	2021-22 2022-23 2023-24	<p>“Exclusion” means an action taken by the school board to prevent enrollment or reenrollment of a pupil for a period that shall not extend beyond the school year.</p> <p>Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.41, subdivision 4</p>
Expulsion from the school setting	2021-22 2022-23 2023-24	<p>“Expulsion” means a school board action to prohibit an enrolled pupil from further attendance for up to 12 months from the date the student is expelled.</p> <p>Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.41, subdivision 5</p>
In-school suspension	2021-22 2022-23 2023-24	<p>Is an instance in which a child is temporarily removed from his or her regular classroom(s) for at least half a day for disciplinary purposes but remains under the direct supervision of school personnel. Direct supervision means school personnel are physically in the same location as students under their supervision.</p> <p>Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC)</p>
Other	2021-22 2022-23 2023-24	Option for instances in which a student was involved in an incident, but the response taken by administrators did not meet the criteria for any other disciplinary action type, or the student was referred to law enforcement in lieu of disciplinary action.
Out-of-school suspension	2021-22 2022-23 2023-24	An action by the school administration, under rules promulgated by the school board, prohibiting a pupil from attending school for a period of no more than ten school days. If a suspension is longer than five days, the suspending administrator must provide the superintendent with a reason for the longer suspension. This definition does not apply to dismissal from school for one school day or less, except as

Disciplinary Action	Years Used	Definition
		<p>provided in federal law for a student with a disability. Each suspension action may include a readmission plan. The readmission plan shall include, where appropriate, a provision for implementing alternative educational services upon readmission and may not be used to extend the current suspension. Consistent with section 125A.091, subdivision 5, the readmission plan must not obligate a parent to provide a sympathomimetic medication for the parent's child as a condition of readmission. The school administration may not impose consecutive suspensions against the same pupil for the same course of conduct, or incident of misconduct, except where the pupil will create an immediate and substantial danger to self or to surrounding persons or property, or where the district is in the process of initiating an expulsion, in which case the school administration may extend the suspension to a total of 15 school days.</p> <p>Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.43, subdivision 10</p>
Removal by hearing officer on determination of likely injury	2021-22 2022-23 2023-24	Only applicable to students in special education when a hearing officer removes a special education student from the student's educational placement due to the likelihood of injury.
Student requested transfer to another district	2021-22 2022-23 2023-24	Applicable when an enrolled student requests a transfer to another district in lieu of or in conjunction with another type of disciplinary action.
Student requested transfer within district	2021-22 2022-23 2023-24	Applicable when an enrolled student requests a transfer to another school within the school district in lieu of or in conjunction with another type of disciplinary action.
Student withdrew from school	2021-22 and 2022-23	Reported when an enrolled student withdraws from school in lieu of or in conjunction with another type of disciplinary action.

Disciplinary Action	Years Used	Definition
Student withdrew from school with pupil withdrawal agreement	2023-24	<p>"Pupil withdrawal agreement" means a verbal or written agreement between a school administrator or district administrator and a pupil's parent to withdraw a student from the school district to avoid expulsion or exclusion dismissal proceedings. The duration of the withdrawal agreement cannot be for more than a 12-month period.</p> <p>Minnesota Statutes, section 121A.41, subdivision 13</p>
Student withdrew from school without pupil withdrawal agreement	2023-24	<p>Applicable when an enrolled student withdraws from the school district following an incident and there is no verbal or written agreement between the school or district and the pupil's parent.</p>
Unilateral removal to an alternative educational setting	2021-22 2022-23 2023-24	<p>Only applicable to students receiving special education services. School personnel may remove a student to an interim alternative educational setting for up to 45 school days in three circumstances:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Student carries a weapon to or possesses a weapon at school, on school premises, or to or at a school function under the jurisdiction of a State Education Agency (SEA) or an LEA; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Weapon refers to a dangerous weapon as defined by 18 United States Code, title 930(g)(2). 2. Knowingly possesses or uses illegal drugs, or sells or solicits the sale of a controlled substance, while at school, on school premises, or at a school function under the jurisdiction of an SEA or an LEA; or <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Controlled substance means a drug or other substance identified under schedules I, II, III, IV, or V in section 202(c) of the Controlled Substances Act, 21 United States Code, title 812 (c). 3. Has inflicted serious bodily injury upon another person while at school, on school premises, or at a school function under the jurisdiction of an SEA or an LEA. 34 C.F.R. 300.530(i)(1)-(4). <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Serious bodily injury is defined in 18 United States Code, title 1365(h)(3).