

HALIFAX REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD Report on Student Suspension Data

PURPOSE: To provide the Governing Board with a report on student suspension data for first semester 2015-2016. Data was collected to show comparisons by gender, number of days of suspensions, number of students suspended, grade level and self-identification.

BACKGROUND: The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development introduced a new Provincial School Code of Conduct for implementation in the fall 2015. Previous to the 2015-2016 school year the Education Act allowed school administrators to suspend students for up to 5 days for *Severely Disruptive Behaviours*. The Education Act was revised with the release of the new Provincial School Code of Conduct to allow school administrators to suspend students for up to 10 days for *Unacceptable Behaviours*.

At the March 30, 2016 board meeting, Chair, Melinda Daye, made the following motion:

It was moved and seconded (Daye/Blumenthal-Harrison) that the Superintendent provides a report at the May Regular Board Meeting regarding student suspension data within the Halifax Regional School Board for the first semester of the 2015-2016 school year.

CONTENT: During the 2015-2016 school year the School Administration supervisors provided professional development for school administrators on the effective implementation of the new Provincial School Code of Conduct. During the year suspension data was routinely collected and reviewed to monitor suspension decisions and to inform conversations with school administrators about practices related to suspensions as a consequence for *Unacceptable Behaviours*. Supervisors and principals discussed strategies to support the development of a safe, positive and inclusive school environment in order to help students develop healthy relationships, make good choices and achieve success in their learning. They focused on how consequences need to be addressed in a fair manner that does not disproportionately impact students based on but not limited to: race, culture,

ethnicity, religion, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, physical disability, mental disability, mental illness, age, national or aboriginal origin, socio-economic status, appearance.

This report compares suspension data for the first semester of the 2014-2015 school year with suspension data for first semester of the 2015-2016 school year. The report disaggregates data by student gender, number of days of suspensions, number of students suspended, grade level and self-identification.

COST: Within existing budgets

FUNDING: N/A

TIMELINE: N/A

APPENDICES: Appendix A – Self Identification Pie Chart
Appendix B – Suspension Data Report

RECOMMENDATIONS: That the Governing Board accept this report for information.

COMMUNICATIONS:

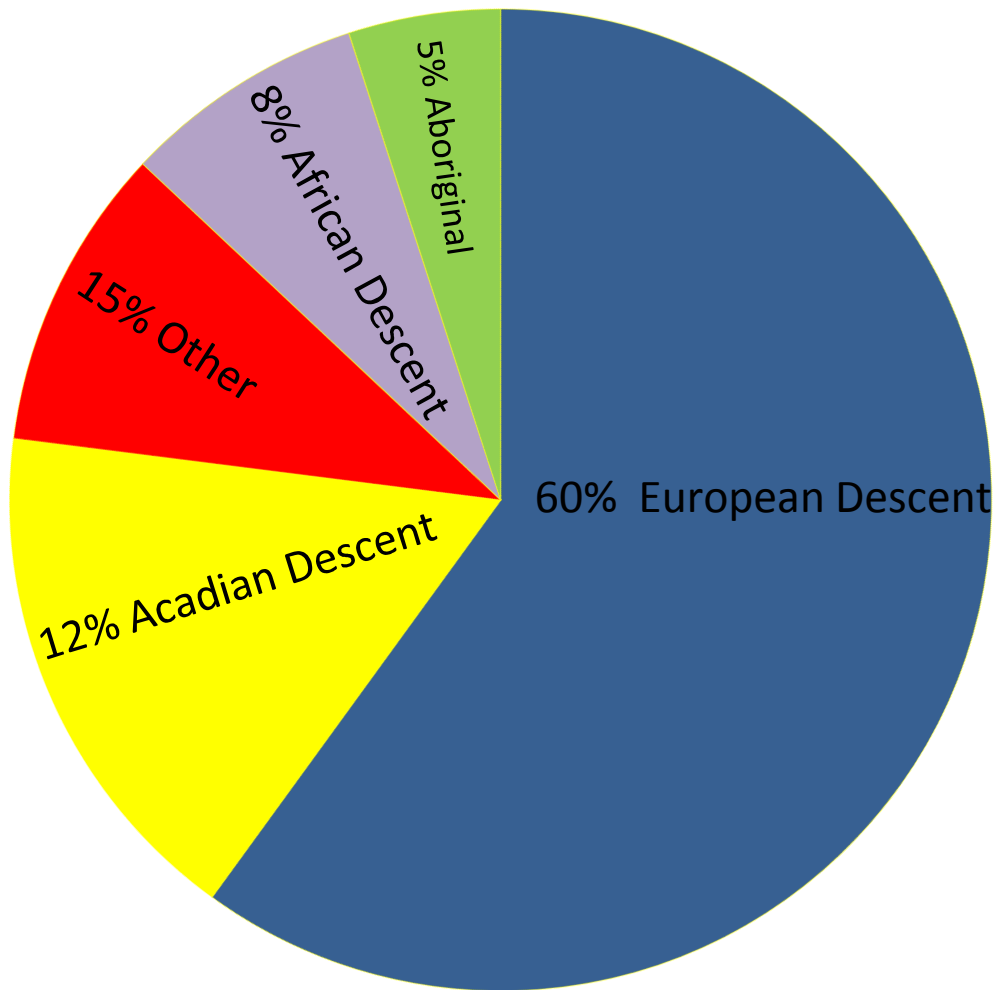
AUDIENCE	RESPONSIBLE	TIMELINE
Governing Board	Susan Tomie, Director School Administration	May 25, 2016

From: Susan Tomie, Director, School Administration, stomie@hrsb.ca, (902) 464-2000 ext. 2275

Self-Identification Data



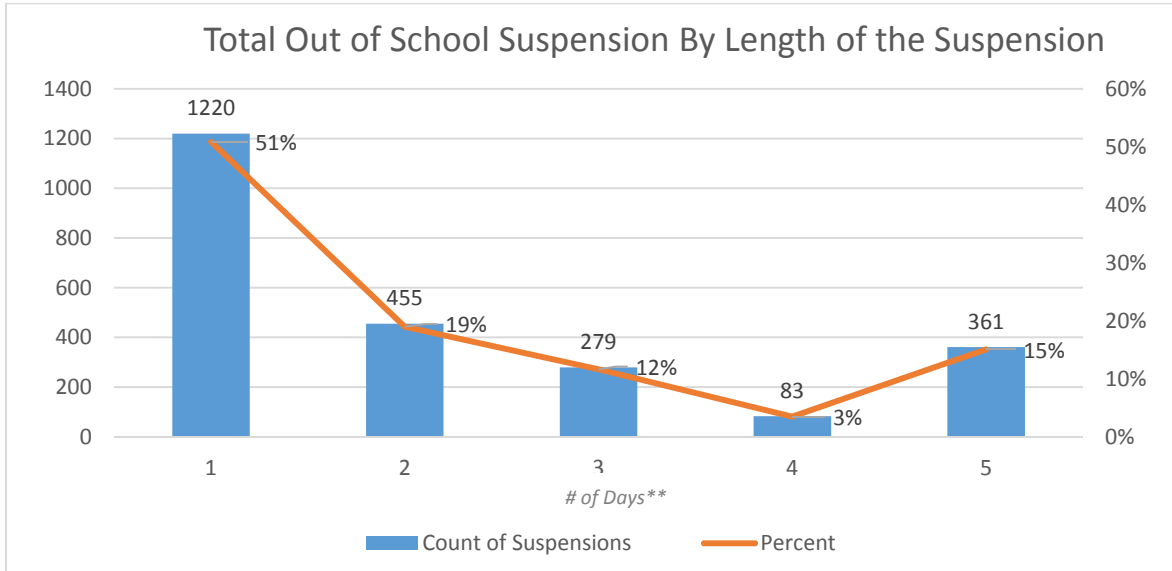
Who are our students?



89% of students have self-identified

As of May 1, 2016

Sept – Feb 2014-15



78% male

22% female

- 2398 Suspensions
- 5104 days of suspensions (using rounding, ex. 3.5 rounds up to 4, raw total **4837.5** days of suspension without rounding)
- 1418 Students
- ** Half day suspensions are rounded to the next number **

Self-Identification of Students Who Were Suspended

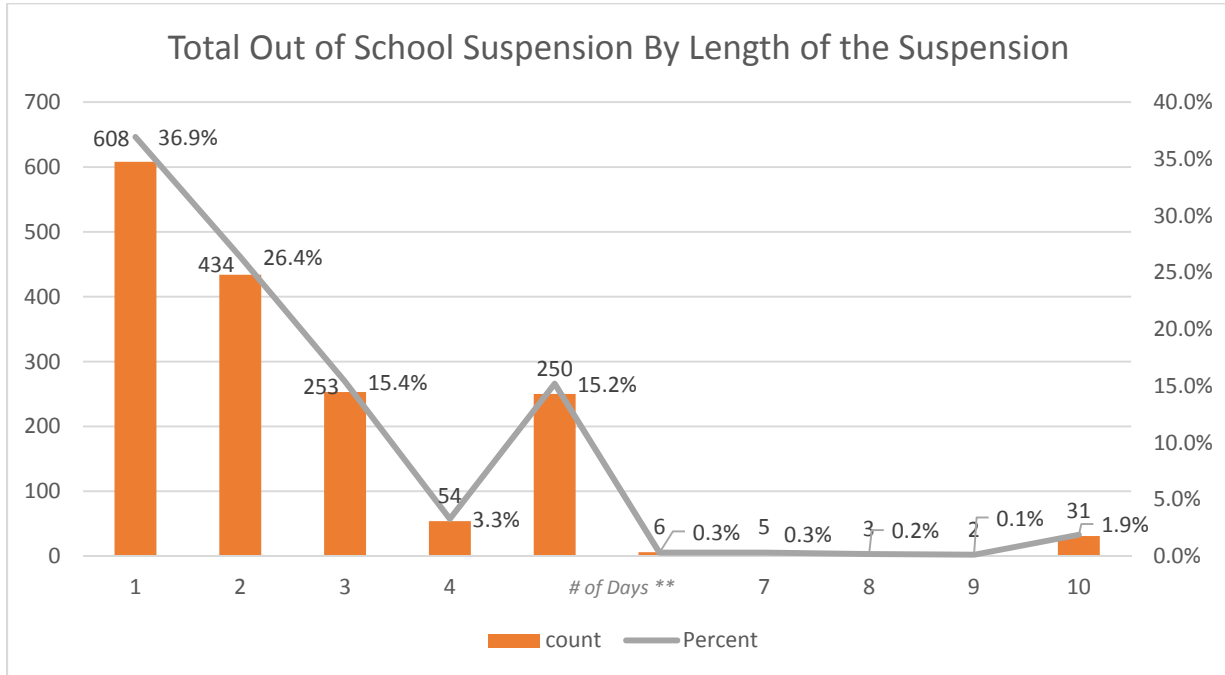
Aboriginal	African Descent	other*	Total
81	255	1082	1418
5.7%	18.0%	76.3%	100%

* other includes students who have self-identified and not self-identified

Suspensions by Grade Level

P-6	341
7-9	533
10-12	544
Total	1418

Sept – Feb 2015-16



75% male 25% female

- 1646 Suspensions
- 4124 days of suspensions (using rounding, ex. 3.5 rounds up to 4, raw total **3953** days of suspension without rounding).
- 1038 Students
- ** Half day suspensions are rounded to the next number **

Self-Identification of Students Who Were Suspended

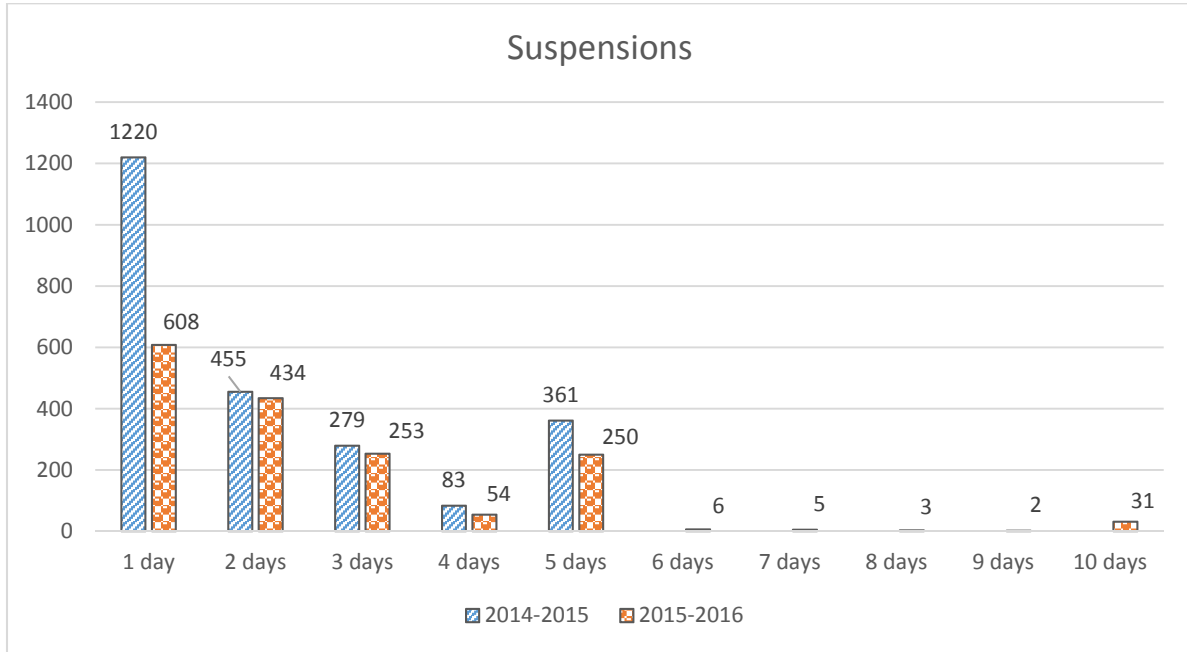
Aboriginal	African Descent	other*	Total
65	234	739	1038
6.3%	22.5%	71.2%	100%

* other includes students who have self-identified and not self-identified

Suspensions by Grade Level

P-6	191
7-9	380
10-12	467
Total	1038

Two Year Comparison of Suspensions by Length of the Suspensions



Length of Suspension

	2014-15	2015-16	Change
1 day	1220	608	-612
2 days	455	434	-21
3 days	279	253	-26
4 days	83	54	-29
5 days	361	250	-111
6 days		6	6
7 days		5	5
8 days		3	3
9 days		2	2
10 days		31	31
Total # of suspensions	2398	1646	-752
Total Days of suspensions	5104	4124	-980

Suspensions by Grade Level

	2014-2015	2015-2016
P-6	341	191
7-9	533	380
10-12	544	467
Total	2398	1646

Self-Identification of Students Who were Suspended

Year	Aboriginal		African Descent		other*		Total
2014-2015	81	5.7%	255	18.0%	1082	76.3%	1418
2015-2016	65	6.3%	234	22.5%	739	71.2%	1038

Extension to Suspensions

2014 – 15 (Sept - Feb) Request beyond 5 days
35 Requests – 34 Students

2015 – 16 (Sept - Feb) Request beyond 10 days
16 Requests – 16 Students