

The Louisiana Department of Education's (LDOE) Office of Information Management (IM) and Office of Safe and Healthy Schools oversee the collection of student discipline data. Student discipline data is submitted by LEAs to the state's Student Information System (SIS) and is used in the Department's annual discipline reports, annual federal data submissions, and to respond to general requests for data from internal and external stakeholders.

DATA COLLECTION PROCESS:

Student discipline data is collected at scheduled submission periods during the school year (Oct 1, Feb 1, and End of Year). IM assists LEAs during their data submissions by providing customer service and technical assistance in regards to when, what and how the data should be reported. IMs SIS Data Manager and Data Quality team track submissions, review the data for completeness, and look for any variance from periods and prior year submissions. Data Comparison Reports are sent to LEAs by IM staff to allow LEAs to verify the data that have been reported for accuracy/completeness and to correct and/or explain any variances. Additionally, LEAs complete and send to LDOE a *Statement of Affirmation Form* at the end of each submission period affirming their data have been verified and are correct. This form must be signed by the LEA Superintendent and the District's Data Managers.

SAFE AND HEALTHY SCHOOLS:

Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) provides a positive and effective alternative to the traditional methods of discipline. PBIS methods are research-based and proven to significantly reduce the occurrence of problem behaviors in the school, resulting in a more positive school climate and increased academic performance. PBIS is consistent with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, and Act 1225, Juvenile Justice Reform Act (R.S. 17:252), which advocates the use of positive behavior interventions and supports and school-based disciplinary strategies that reduce or eliminate the need to use suspension and expulsion as disciplinary options.

PBIS is a data driven systems approach developed to assist schools and community settings achieve socially important behavior change. Multi-tiered systems of support are put in place to support staff while they teach and encourage positive, healthy behaviors.

Data collected by the State, District and School Teams drives the decision-making process and assists in the continued development of PBIS. Whenever possible the LDOE uses data currently collected to inform stakeholders of the progress of those schools and districts that have implemented PBIS.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

LDOE continuously strives to improve tools and supports to LEAs during data collections to allow for increased data quality and accurate reporting. As such, the Department makes the following recommendations:

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Recommendation #1: LDOE will review its established practices and procedures for collecting/verifying/reporting student discipline data and elicit feedback from stakeholder groups (i.e., Advisory Council on Student Behavior and Discipline, LEA Data Managers, etc.) to improve upon this process.

This may include, but is not limited to: 1.) A thorough review of the SIS discipline collection system, SIS User Guide, and state and federal discipline reporting requirements; 2.) Vetting of suggested changes to the SIS discipline collection system in order to simplify discipline data reporting while protecting student privacy and confidentiality; 3.) An in-depth review of all discipline data elements, codes, behavior report forms, and definitions to ensure consistent and accurate reporting across all LEAs; and 4.) Creation of additional reports for LEA Data Managers to use in analyzing and verifying data reported to LDOE during the submission periods.

Recommendation #2: LDOE will establish a data quality review committee to assist with the review of discipline data reported to the state SIS. This committee may include subject matter experts from various offices within the Department who utilize the discipline data for reporting, monitoring, or policy making. This committee will meet on a regular basis to evaluate different topics related to discipline, discuss changes to discipline policy, analyze trends in the data, etc.

Recommendation #3: The LDOE will collect and analyze relevant PBIS data annually. The state, district and school teams will use the data to demonstrate effectiveness and/or make revisions and adjustments to the appropriate plans. Table 1 provides an overview of the evaluation process, including the data to be collected, the data sources and those responsible for the data collection.