



**2014-15 Student Hearing Office Data Summary
July 2015**

The Recovery School District is committed to ensuring students are able to equitably access high-quality educational opportunities, regardless of the challenges their behavior may present. We have done this through a centralized student expulsion hearing process that ensures students are only being expelled for the most serious offenses, and that they and their families are treated fairly and are given due process throughout the experience. The expulsion rate in New Orleans trails that of the state, evidence of our commitment to keeping students in school and addressing behavior challenges without using exclusionary discipline practices.

In 2014-15, the Student Hearing Office (SHO) worked with school representatives, students, and advocates to make further changes to the expulsion policy and procedure that focused on using interventions to keep more students in school; reduce the number of expulsions; and improve the educational experience of expelled students through:

- Further tiering offenses to better differentiate based on the severity of a behavior and to ensure consequences more appropriately align with the offenses;
- Adding a third tier for some less serious offenses that require a student to receive a Discipline Conference for a first time violation;
- Formalizing and training schools on the use of Discipline Conferences as an intervention to prevent future expellable offenses or other serious behavioral issues; and
- Ensuring additional alternative placements were available for expelled students to meet their individual needs.

These policy changes have led to a significant increase in the number of Discipline Conferences being used to preventatively address serious behavioral issues. Additionally, there has been a large drop in the percentage of students being recommended for expulsion, those found guilty of an expellable offense, and those expelled to an alternative placement.

Data

Expulsion Recommendations and Discipline Conferences

- More than 100 fewer students were recommended for expulsion in 2014-15 than the prior year, a decline of nearly 23 percent.
- There was a 126 percent increase in the number of discipline conferences that were held.

Table 1: Number of Student Discipline Conferences Conducted

Governance	2013-2014	2014-2015	Change
RSD	181	316	74.59%
OPSB Charter	0	12	-
OPSB DR	29	134	362.07%
OPSB Total	29	146	403.45%
BESE	0	13	-
TOTAL	210	475	126.19%



Table 2: Number of Students Recommended for Expulsion

Governance	2013-2014	2014-2015	Change
RSD	407	270	-33.66%
OPSB Charter	17	35	105.88%
OPSB DR	55	61	10.91%
OPSB Total	72	96	33.33%
BESE	6	9	-
TOTAL	485	375	-22.68%

Guilty Dispositions and Expulsions

- Citywide, there was a 14.7 percent decrease in the number of students found guilty expellable offenses, equating to a 17.5 percent decrease in the guilty disposition rate. The overall rate of guilty dispositions was 0.53 percent in 2014-15.
- There was also a significant decrease in the percentage of students expelled to an alternative placement, 16.7 percent, for a 2014-15 expulsion rate of 0.43 percent.
- More than 50 percent of all guilty dispositions were for Tier 1 offenses, which involve violence against another person, distribution of drugs, and other very serious offenses.

Table 3: Rate of Student Population Expelled to an Alternative Placement

Governance	2013-2014	2014-2015	Change
RSD	0.66%	0.48%	-27.41%
OPSB Charter	0.04%	0.17%	301.98%
OPSB DR	0.82%	0.90%	9.94%
OPSB Total	0.23%	0.35%	52.09%
BESE	-	0.35%	-
TOTAL	0.52%	0.43%	-16.67%

Table 4: New Orleans Expulsion Rate Compared to the State

Parish*	Expulsion Rate
New Orleans	0.43%
State	0.5%

*State data is from 2013-14 year. 2014-15 data entry and verification is not yet complete.



Definitions

1. Discipline Conference: a meeting held between the Student Hearing Officer, school, student, and parent to discuss problematic behavior and make a plan together to make improvements.
2. Expulsion Recommendation: the process by which a school requests that the Student Hearing Office conducts a hearing and makes a determination as to whether or not a student is guilty of an expellable offense and eligible to be expelled.
3. Guilty Disposition: the determination that a student has committed an expellable offense, made by the Student Hearing Officer after an Expulsion Hearing
4. Expulsion: removal of a student from their school to an alternative placement (another traditional school, an alternative school, a homebound placement) after being found guilty of an expellable offense