THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL

RESEARCH & EVALUATION
3300 FOREST HILL BOULEVARD, B-246
WEST PALM BEACH, FL 33406

PHONE: 561-434-8469 / FAX: 561-357-7611
WWW.PALMBEACHSCHOOLS.ORG

PAUL HOUCHENS
DIRECTOR

EDWARD C. TIERNEY
DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT/CHIEF OF SCHOOLS

GLENDA SHEFFIELD, ED.D.
CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER

ADAM MILLER, PH.D.
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT,
PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

February 23, 2022

TO: School Board Members

THROUGH: Michael J. Burke, Superintendent

FROM: Edward C. Tierney, Deputy Superintendent/Chief of Schools
Glenda Sheffield, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer
Adam Miller, Ph.D., Assistant Superintendent, Performance Accountability

SUBJECT: FY20 TO FY22 MID-YEAR ATTENDANCE, DISCIPLINARY INCIDENTS, AND ACTIONS

The Department of Research & Evaluation (DRE) developed an interactive FY20 to FY22 Mid-Year Attendance, Disciplinary Incidents, and Actions Dashboard summarizing student behavior overall and by subgroup.[1] Data includes the type, number, and percent of total absences, incidents, and actions by subgroup and by school occurring during the first semester of FY20, FY21, and FY22. This document outlines some high-level observations from the dashboard.

<u>Summary of Results</u>

Attendance
- In FY22, 39.6% of students had 5 or more total absences at mid-year. This reflects an increase in the percentage of students with 5 or more absences from FY20 (24.0%) and FY21 (20.1%). From FY20 to FY22, the percentage of students with 5 or more absences increased among Black students (FY20: 20.4%; FY21: 24.9%; FY22: 37.3%), Hispanic students (FY20: 27.6%; FY21: 23.6%; FY22: 45.7%), and White students (FY20: 23.8%; FY21: 12.9 %; FY22: 35.9%).

Disciplinary Incidents
- The total number of incidents reported in FY22 (n=21,716) was greater than the total number of incidents reported in FY21 (n=3,458) and FY20 (n=19,790).
- Level 1 incidents accounted for 34.0% of the incidents reported in FY22 compared to 38.3% in FY21 and 35.8% in FY20. Level 2 incidents accounted for 51.9% of the incidents reported in FY22 compared to 50.5% in FY21 and 53.1% in FY20.
- Incidents rising to the School Environmental Safety Incident Reporting (SESIR) level increased in FY22 (18.4%) relative to prior years (FY20: 14.3%; FY21: 14.6%).

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[1] Navigation to the interactive report from District's homepage: The School District of Palm Beach County -> Departments -> Research and Evaluation -> Tests/Survey Reports -> Reports/Graphs -> Attendance and Discipline Dashboard

Disciplinary Actions

- In FY22, 18.3% of disciplinary incidents resulted in In-School Suspension (ISS) and 43.3% of incidents resulted in Out-of-School Suspension (OSS). The proportion of incidents in OSS increased from FY21 (31.8%) and FY20 (36.9%).
- Of the students receiving OSS at least once, more than half of these students were Black (FY20: 54.1%, FY21: 43.6%; FY22: 53.6%), followed by Hispanic students (FY20: 25.6%, FY21: 26.1%; FY22: 26.0%), followed by White students (FY20: 16.6%; FY21: 25.1%; FY22: 16.5%).

Next Steps

Principals can monitor their school's discipline and attendance data by accessing up-to-date dashboards available on the District's Educational Data Warehouse (EDW). The Attendance Dashboard (Report number: RAGOA0564) is a summary level report showing all schools with students having seven or more unexcused absences within the last 30 days. The Discipline Dashboard (Report number: RDGOA0494) provides graphic displays of number of events and students by month, events by time of day, location, and incident type as well as student counts by number of referrals.

The Principal Dashboard (Report number: RXOOA0636) presents the percentages of students with 11 or more, 15 or more, and 21 or more absences by subgroup along with the percentages of students with one or more discipline referrals, one or more in-school suspensions, and one or more out-of-school suspensions by subgroup. Staff are encouraged to explore issues of attendance and discipline using these dashboards and the data presented in this mid-year Executive Summary. The following questions are offered as a guide to begin exploration:

1. Which incident types are most common? Has this trend changed over the last three years? (see Discipline Dashboard)
2. When and where do most disciplinary events occur? Which steps have been taken to address these patterns? (see Discipline Dashboard)
3. Are there substantial subgroup differences in the rate of incident referrals, OSS, and ISS? (see Mid-Year Attendance, Disciplinary Incidents, and Actions Dashboard and Principal Dashboard)
4. When comparing your school's absence status to schools of the same type in your area, is your school's absence status significantly higher or lower? (see Attendance Dashboard)
5. Are there substantial subgroup differences in absence rates? (see Mid-Year Attendance, Disciplinary Incidents, and Actions Dashboard and Principal Dashboard)

For questions regarding this report, please contact Paul Houchens, Director, Research & Evaluation at 561-434-8780 or Dr. Adam Miller, Assistant Superintendent, Performance Accountability at 561-434-8851. For questions about individual school data, please contact the appropriate regional/instructional superintendent or school principal. Questions about attendance and discipline policies should be directed to Diane Wyatt, Director, Safe Schools at 561-653-5180.

MJB/ECT/GS/AM/PH/RC/MP:wl

c: Academic and Operating Chiefs
   Regional/Instructional Superintendents
   Assistant Superintendents
   Academic Directors
   Principals