



## Santa Clara County Office of Education

Dr. Charles Hinman  
Interim County Superintendent of Schools

March 21, 2025

TO: Deborah Gorgulho, Ed.D., Assistant Superintendent, Educational Progress Division

FROM: Deann Walsh, Manager, Assessment & Accountability,  
Dan Mason, Manager, Assessment & Accountability

SUBJECT: 2023-24 Santa Clara County Suspension Results

---

The California Department of Education (CDE) reports via DataQuest suspension rates that represent the number of unduplicated students who were suspended at least once at any time during a school year divided by the number of cumulatively enrolled students. Regardless of whether a student is suspended once for two hours or suspended multiple times for multiple days throughout a school year, the student is included once in the numerator and once in the denominator of the suspension rates for the applicable cohorts - student group(s) and levels (state, county, district, school, grade level) – based on their enrollment at the time of the suspension(s).

It is important to note that the suspension rates reported via DataQuest differ slightly from those reported on the California School Dashboard (Dashboard) in that on the Dashboard students are only included in a suspension rate if they have an aggregated suspension of at least one full day {i.e., their total suspension value (for one or more suspensions) equals 1.0 days or more}. Additionally, on DataQuest, charter schools are included in their authorizer's report, although they can be filtered out, whereas on the Dashboard, charter schools are treated as Local Education Agencies under the Local Control Funding Formula and are not included in their authorizer's report.

The following report summarizes suspension results from the 2023-24 school year. The results are presented for Santa Clara County and the State of California and disaggregated by student groups, grade spans, disproportionality, and most serious offense categories. The glossary below is provided for general understanding of suspension data terms and methodologies.

### Glossary of Terms

**Suspension Rate:** The unduplicated count of students who were suspended divided by the cumulative enrollment of the applicable student population.

**Unduplicated Count of Students Suspended:** Total count of all students of the applicable student population who were suspended one or more times. Students who are suspended multiple times are only counted once.

**Cumulative Enrollment:** Cumulative enrollment consists of the total number of unduplicated primary and short-term enrollments within the school year (July 1 to June 30), regardless of whether the student is enrolled multiple times within a school or district.

**Percent of Students Suspended:** For a given student group population of a given entity, that population’s unduplicated count of students suspended divided by the total unduplicated count of students suspended of the entity (i.e., county or State).

**Percent of Cumulative Enrollment:** For a given student group of a given entity, that student group’s cumulative enrollment divided by the cumulative enrollment of the entity (i.e., county or State).

**Disproportionality:** For a given student group, a calculation of the percentage the student group represents of all students suspended divided by the percentage the student group represents of all students’ total cumulative enrollment. A measure of 1 represents an equal (1 to 1) suspension to enrollment ratio. A measure of 2 indicates that a student group is proportionally represented twice as much (or 100% higher) in an entity’s students suspended total as they are in the entity’s cumulative enrollment total. A measure of 0.50 indicates that a student group is represented half as much (or 50% lower) in the entity’s total of students suspended as they are in the entity’s total enrollment.

To preserve space, the abbreviations in Table 1 are used in this report’s data displays.

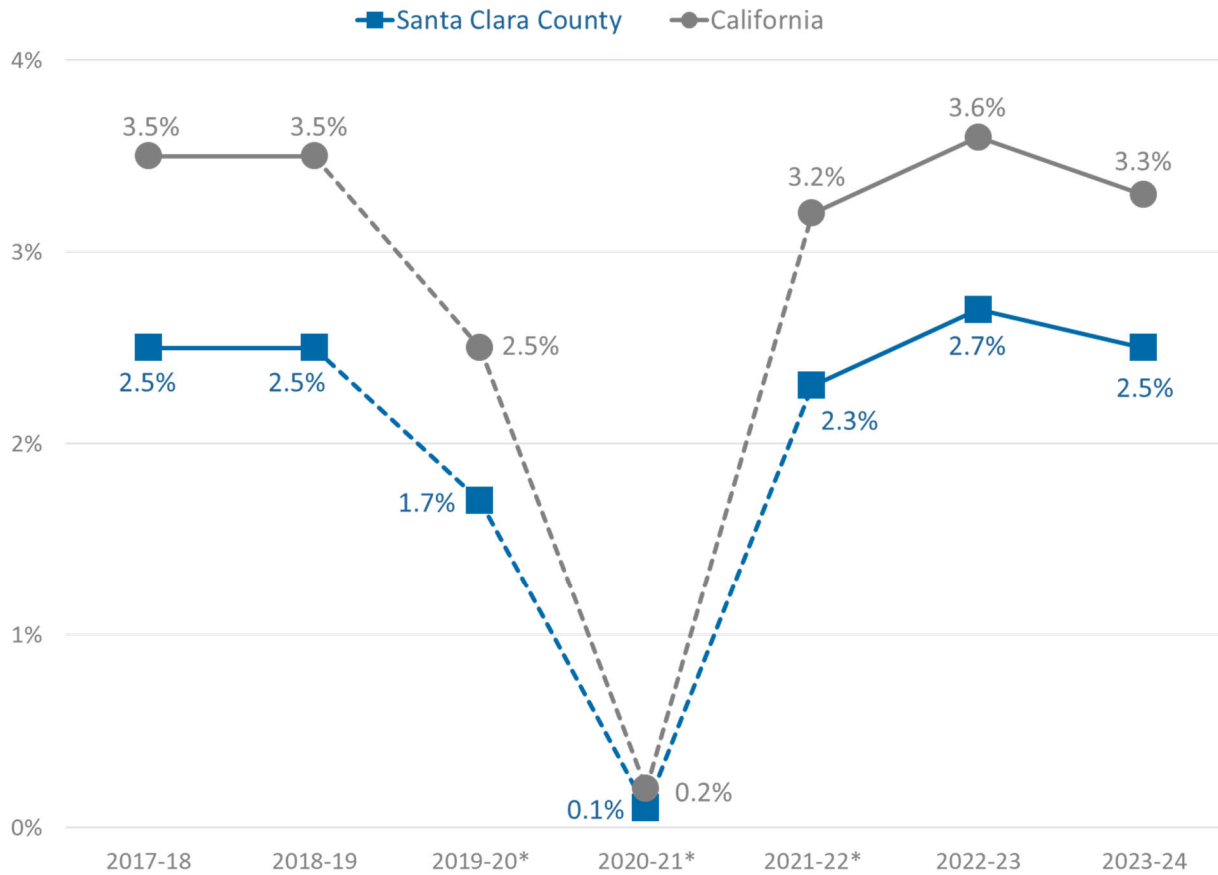
*Table 1: Data Display Abbreviations*

SCC	Santa Clara County	EL	English Learner
CA	California	Not EL	Not English Learner (Fluent English Proficient and English Only)
All	All Students	SED	Socioeconomically Disadvantaged
Am. Ind.	American Indian or Alaska Native	Not SED	Not Socioeconomically Disadvantaged
Black	Black or African American	SWD	Students with Reported Disabilities
Latino	Hispanic or Latino	Not SWD	Students with No Reported Disabilities
Pac. Is.	Pacific Islander	Foster	Foster Youth
Two +	Two or More Races	Homeless	Homeless Youth

**SUSPENSION RATE OVERTIME**

Figure 1 represents the suspension rates for Santa Clara County and California over the past seven years. Santa Clara County’s suspension rate has consistently been lower than California’s rate, with the most recent results having the county rate at 2.5% compared to the statewide rate at 3.3%. Santa Clara County’s 2023-24 suspension rate of 2.5% was equal to the 2017-18 and 2018-19 pre-pandemic rates. However, these identical rates should not be interpreted to mean that student behavior and educator response in 2023-24 was unchanged from 2017-18 and 2018-19. It is possible that the frequency and/or severity of student behavioral incidents have increased, but that educators have modified their reaction to behavioral incidents with more frequent use of interventions other than suspensions.

Figure 1: Suspension Rates from 2017-18 to 2023-24, Santa Clara County and California



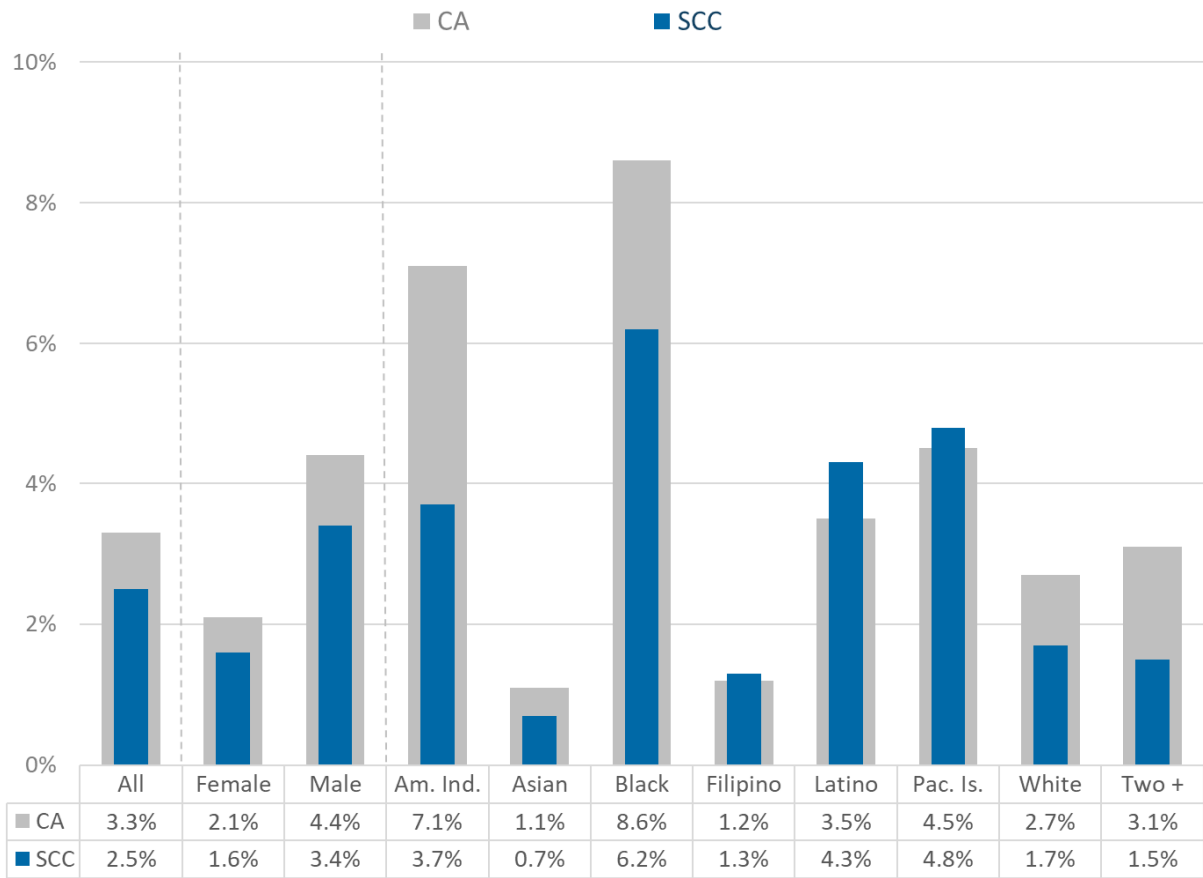
\*The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in statewide physical school closures in February/March 2020 followed by the widespread implementation of distance learning during the 2020–21 school year. The CDE recommends caution when comparing discipline data across school years.

**SUSPENSION RATES BY STUDENT GROUPS**

When suspension rate results are disaggregated by student groups, significant variation emerges. Illustrated below are the student group results by gender and race/ethnicity for Santa Clara County and California. As with the overall rate, in most cases Santa Clara County’s suspension rates were lower than the statewide rates. Notable exceptions were that Santa Clara County’s suspension rates were higher than California’s for Hispanic/Latinos (4.3% vs. 3.5%) and Pacific Islanders (4.8% vs. 4.5%) and relatively equal for Filipino (1.2% and 1.3%) students.

Within Santa Clara County, the male suspension rate was more than twice the rate for females, and the Black/African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Hispanic/Latino and Pacific Islander student groups suspension rates were well above the county rate and the rates of the other racial/ethnic student groups.

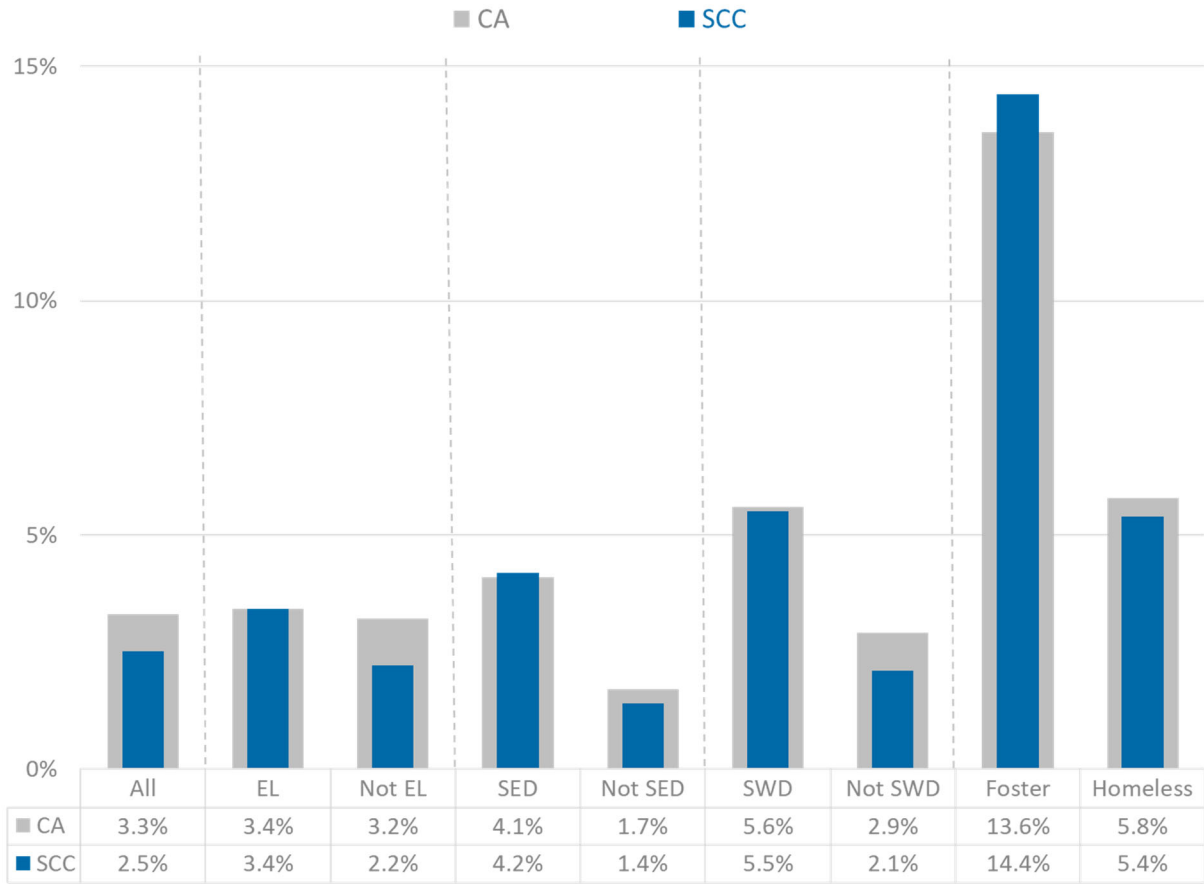
Figure 2: 2023-24 Suspension Rates by Gender and Race/Ethnicity, Santa Clara County and California



Similarly, when overall results are disaggregated by programs as displayed below, Santa Clara County’s suspension rates were most often lower than or in close approximation to the statewide rates. The only exception was that Santa Clara County’s suspension rate was higher than California’s for Foster Youth (14.4% vs. 13.6%).

The suspension rates for Santa Clara County Socioeconomically Disadvantaged, Students with Disabilities, Homeless and Foster students were all at least twice as high as their countywide peers who were not in these groupings.

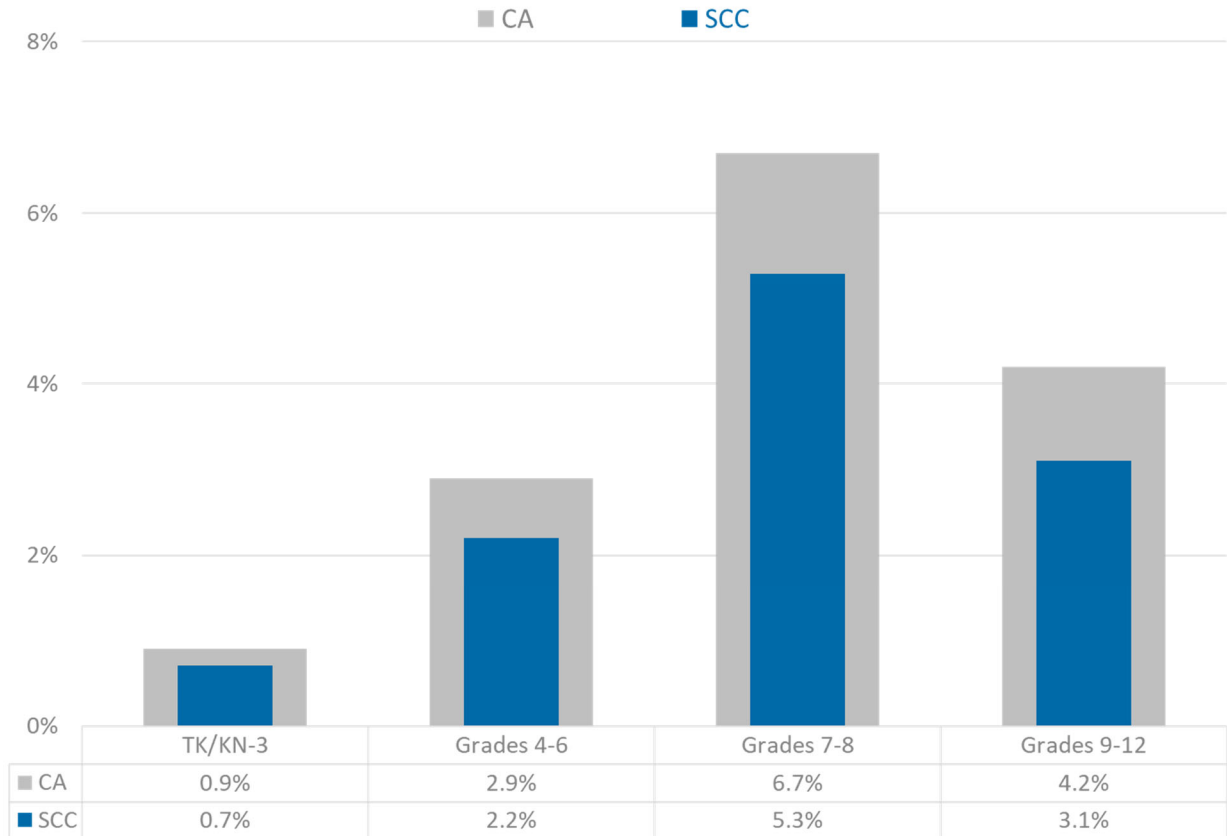
Figure 3: 2023-24 Suspension Rates by Student Program, Santa Clara County and California



**SUSPENSION RATES BY GRADE SPAN**

The following visualization illustrates the suspension rate data disaggregated by grade span. Santa Clara County suspension rates were lower than the State across all grade spans. When grade spans are compared to one another, students in grades 7-8 had the highest suspension rate followed by students in grades 9-12. In Santa Clara County, the suspension rate for grades 7-8 was 5.3% and the rate for grades 9-12 was 3.1%

Figure 4: 2023-24 Suspension Rates by Grade Span, Santa Clara County and California



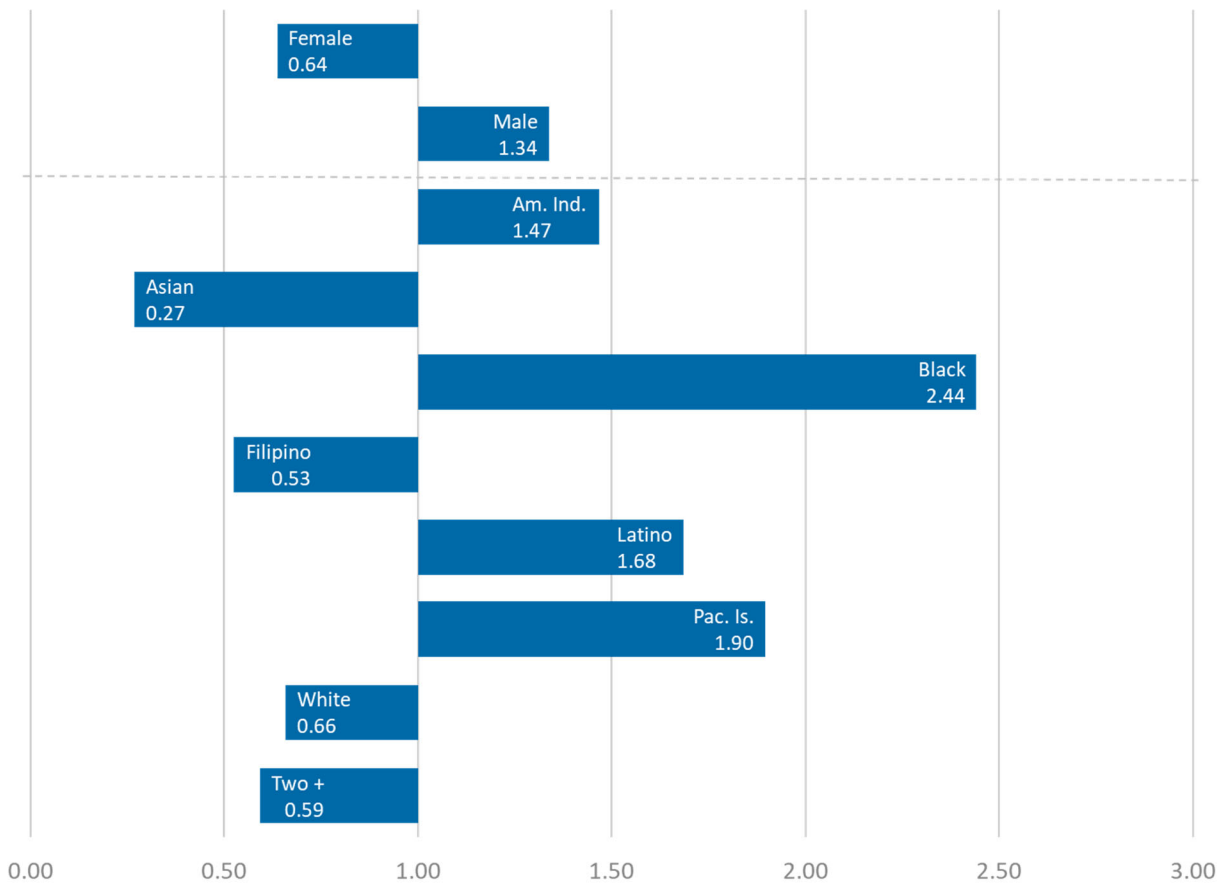
**DISPROPORTIONALITY OF STUDENTS SUSPENDED**

The illustration below displays the disproportionality of Santa Clara County’s suspended students by gender and race/ethnicity. Suspension disproportionality represents the unequal correlation between the percentage a student group represents of the total students suspended compared to the percentage that student group represents of the total student enrollment (see glossary at beginning for examples).

In Santa Clara County, Hispanic/Latino students are over-represented in the cohort of suspended students by a measure of 1.68 (68% higher than their enrollment ratio), African American students are over-represented by a measure of 2.44 (144% higher) and Pacific Islander students are over-represented by a measure of 1.90 (90% higher).

The 1.68 measure for Santa Clara County Hispanic/Latino students compares to a 1.06 measure statewide. The 1.90 measure for Santa Clara County Pacific Islander students compares to a 1.36 measure statewide. (See Tables 1 and 2 on pages 10-11 for additional information on Santa Clara County and statewide enrollment and suspension counts, rates, and disproportionality measures.)

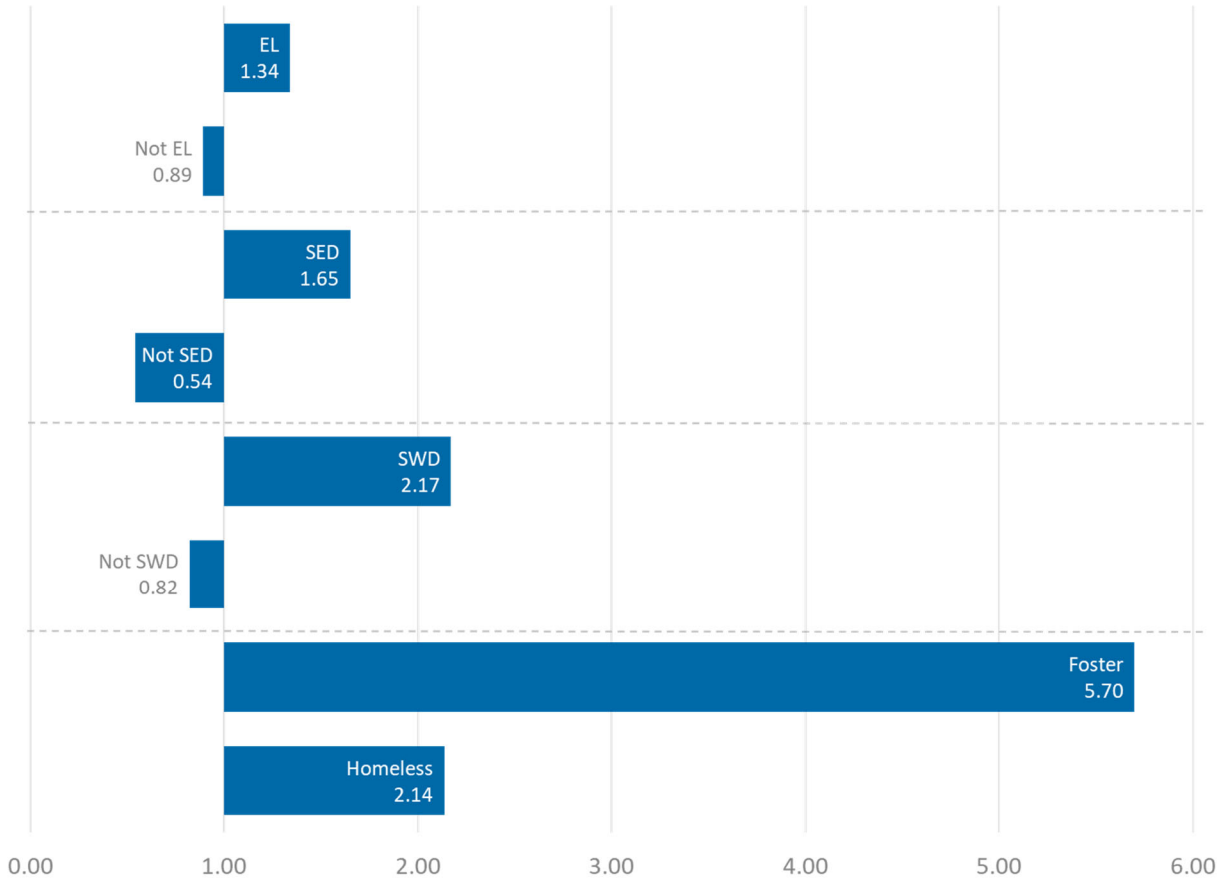
*Figure 5: 2023-24 Disproportionality of Students Suspended by Gender and Race/Ethnicity, Santa Clara County*



In the same fashion as the previous figure, the illustration below displays the disproportionality of Santa Clara County’s students suspended by program. Though Foster students have the smallest cumulative enrollment (459 students) the group is by far the most disproportionately represented amongst students suspended with a measure of 5.70 (470% higher than their enrollment ratio). The disproportionate numbers of students suspended is also quite alarming for Socioeconomically Disadvantaged students (1.65 or 65% higher), Students with Disabilities (2.17 or 117% higher) and Homeless youth (2.14 or 114% higher).

The disproportionality measures for Santa Clara County’s program groups are higher than their statewide counterparts: Foster (5.70 vs. 4.13); Homeless (2.14 vs. 1.76); Student with Disabilities (2.17 vs. 1.69); Socioeconomically Disadvantaged (1.65 vs. 1.26); and English Learners (1.34 vs. 1.05). (See Tables 1 and 2 on pages 10-11 for additional information on Santa Clara County and statewide enrollment and suspension counts, rates, and disproportionality measures.)

Figure 6: 2023-24 Disproportionality of Students Suspended by Program, Santa Clara County





**MOST SERIOUS OFFENSE CATEGORIES OF SUSPENSIONS**

Suspension incidents often involve multiple offenses. The illustration below compares Santa Clara County to California by the most serious offense category of suspension incidents during the 2023-24 school year. Over half of all suspension incidents in Santa Clara County and statewide have a Violent Incident (No Injury) as the most serious offense category. (See table 3 at end of report for suspensions and most serious offense category counts and percentages by student groups. See Appendix A for more information about offense categories.)

*Figure 7: 2023-24 Most Serious Offense Categories of Suspensions, Santa Clara County and California*

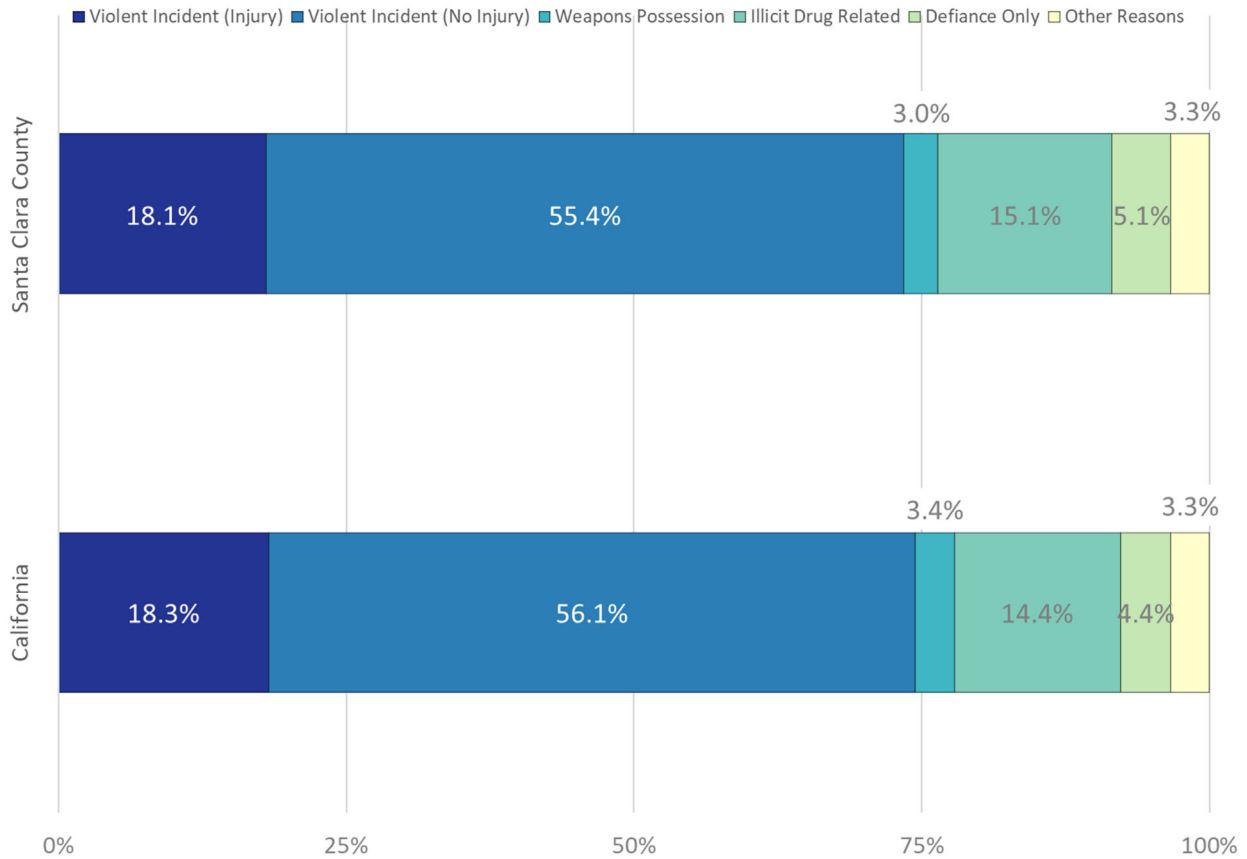


Table 1: 2023-24 Cumulative Enrollment Counts and Percentages, Unduplicated Counts and Percentages of Students Suspended, and Disproportionality Measures by Student Groups, Santa Clara County

Santa Clara County						
Reporting Category	Cumulative Enrollment	Percent of Cumulative Enrollment	Unduplicated Count of Students Suspended	Suspension Rate	Percent of Students Suspended	Disproportionality of Students Suspended
Overall	244,089		6,159	2.5%		
Black	4,318	1.8%	266	6.2%	4.3%	2.44
Am. Ind.	648	0.3%	24	3.7%	0.4%	1.47
Asian	74,237	30.4%	503	0.7%	8.2%	0.27
Filipino	8,600	3.5%	114	1.3%	1.9%	0.53
Latino	101,070	41.4%	4,297	4.3%	69.8%	1.68
Pac. Is.	962	0.4%	46	4.8%	0.7%	1.90
Two +	14,129	5.8%	211	1.5%	3.4%	0.59
White	37,508	15.4%	623	1.7%	10.1%	0.66
Female	117,541	48.2%	1,890	1.6%	30.7%	0.64
Male	126,309	51.7%	4,266	3.4%	69.3%	1.34
EL	59,597	24.4%	2,016	3.4%	32.7%	1.34
Not EL	184,492	75.6%	4,143	2.2%	67.3%	0.89
Foster	459	0.2%	66	14.4%	1.1%	5.70
Homeless	7,498	3.1%	404	5.4%	6.6%	2.14
SED	100,909	41.3%	4,203	4.2%	68.2%	1.65
Not SED	143,180	58.7%	1,956	1.4%	31.8%	0.54
SWD	32,102	13.2%	1,757	5.5%	28.5%	2.17
Not SWD	211,987	86.8%	4,402	2.1%	71.5%	0.82

Table 2: 2023-24 Cumulative Enrollment Counts and Percentages, Unduplicated Counts and Percentages of Students Suspended, and Disproportionality Measures by Student Groups, California

California						
Reporting Category	Cumulative Enrollment	Percent of Cumulative Enrollment	Unduplicated Count of Students Suspended	Suspension Rate	Percent of Students Suspended	Disproportionality of Students Suspended
Overall	6,023,851		197,709	3.3%		
Black	303,380	5.0%	25,979	8.6%	13.1%	2.61
Am. Ind.	26,542	0.4%	1,897	7.1%	1.0%	2.18
Asian	595,658	9.9%	6,306	1.1%	3.2%	0.32
Filipino	132,555	2.2%	1,588	1.2%	0.8%	0.37
Latino	3,382,089	56.1%	117,511	3.5%	59.4%	1.06
Pac. Is.	24,994	0.4%	1,118	4.5%	0.6%	1.36
Two +	277,099	4.6%	8,667	3.1%	4.4%	0.95
White	1,216,294	20.2%	32,735	2.7%	16.6%	0.82
Female	2,921,267	48.5%	62,553	2.1%	31.6%	0.65
Male	3,096,581	51.4%	134,961	4.4%	68.3%	1.33
EL	1,185,003	19.7%	40,752	3.4%	20.6%	1.05
Not EL	4,838,848	80.3%	156,957	3.2%	79.4%	0.99
Foster	39,286	0.7%	5,327	13.6%	2.7%	4.13
Homeless	286,853	4.8%	16,601	5.8%	8.4%	1.76
SED	3,920,538	65.1%	162,188	4.1%	82.0%	1.26
Not SED	2,103,313	34.9%	35,521	1.7%	18.0%	0.51
SWD	903,135	15.0%	50,162	5.6%	25.4%	1.69
Not SWD	5,120,716	85.0%	147,547	2.9%	74.6%	0.88

2023-24 Santa Clara County Suspension Results

Table 3: 2023-24 Total Suspensions and Most Serious Offense Category Counts and Percentages by Student Groups, Santa Clara County

Reporting Category	Total Suspensions	Violent Incident (Injury)		Violent Incident (No Injury)		Weapons Possession		Illicit Drug Related		Defiance Only		Other Reasons	
		Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
Black	466	95	20.4%	290	62.2%	15	3.2%	37	7.9%	10	2.1%	19	4.1%
Am. Ind.	46	14	30.4%	25	54.3%	0	0.0%	6	13.0%	0	0.0%	1	2.2%
Asian	657	119	18.1%	411	62.6%	30	4.6%	55	8.4%	19	2.9%	23	3.5%
Filipino	147	26	17.7%	82	55.8%	9	6.1%	21	14.3%	3	2.0%	6	4.1%
Latino	6,922	1,303	18.8%	3,769	54.4%	232	3.4%	1,096	15.8%	321	4.6%	201	2.9%
Pac. Is.	72	17	23.6%	33	45.8%	0	0.0%	7	9.7%	6	8.3%	9	12.5%
Two +	357	65	18.2%	207	58.0%	14	3.9%	41	11.5%	13	3.6%	17	4.8%
White	978	137	14.0%	587	60.0%	31	3.2%	128	13.1%	50	5.1%	45	4.6%
Female	2,757	529	19.2%	1,406	51.0%	65	2.4%	583	21.1%	94	3.4%	80	2.9%
Male	7,003	1,261	18.0%	4,070	58.1%	269	3.8%	823	11.8%	335	4.8%	245	3.5%
EL	3,192	594	18.6%	1,774	55.6%	101	3.2%	465	14.6%	154	4.8%	104	3.3%
Not EL	6,571	1,196	18.2%	3,704	56.4%	233	3.5%	942	14.3%	275	4.2%	221	3.4%
Foster	126	30	23.8%	68	54.0%	1	0.8%	18	14.3%	5	4.0%	4	3.2%
Homeless	696	160	23.0%	356	51.1%	20	2.9%	98	14.1%	48	6.9%	14	2.0%
SED	6,902	1,293	18.7%	3,809	55.2%	222	3.2%	1,040	15.1%	315	4.6%	223	3.2%
Not SED	2,861	497	17.4%	1,669	58.3%	112	3.9%	367	12.8%	114	4.0%	102	3.6%
SWD	3,275	633	19.3%	1,948	59.5%	102	3.1%	389	11.9%	112	3.4%	91	2.8%
Not SWD	6,488	1,157	17.8%	3,530	54.4%	232	3.6%	1,018	15.7%	317	4.9%	234	3.6%
SCC	9,763	1,790	18.3%	5,478	56.1%	334	3.4%	1,407	14.4%	429	4.4%	325	3.3%
CA	307,774	55,665	18.1%	170,484	55.4%	9,241	3.0%	46,446	15.1%	15,760	5.1%	10,178	3.3%

**APPENDIX A**

**Federal Offense Categories, Defiance Only, and "Other"**

In order to report summaries of student-level disciplinary outcomes (suspensions and expulsions), the CDE has mapped each of the 33 California Education Code sections reported in CALPADS to their corresponding Federal Offense categories and the following suggested Federal severity hierarchy:

- Violent Incident (Injury)
- Violent Incident (No Injury)
- Weapons Possession (No Injury)
- Illicit Drug Related (Includes Alcohol)
- Defiance Only (Not Part of the Federal Hierarchy)
- Other (Not Part of the Federal Hierarchy)

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** For DataQuest reporting, all suspensions and expulsions are counted under the Federal Offense Category associated with the most severe offense committed by a student in an incident, unless the most severe offense committed belongs to the “Defiance Only” or “Other” non-federal categories.

**Violent Incident (Injury)**

This Federal Offense Category includes the following California Education Code sections:

California Education Code Section	Offense Description
48915(c)(4), 48900(n)	Sexual Battery/Assault
48915(a)(1)(A)	Caused Physical Injury
48915(a)(1)(E)	Committed Assault or Battery on a School Employee
48900(a)(2)	Used Force or Violence
48900.3	Committed an act of Hate Violence
48900(q)	Hazing

**Violent Incident (No Injury)**

This Federal Offense Category includes the following California Education Code sections:

California Education Code Section	Offense Description
48900.2	Sexual Harassment
48900(a)(1)	Caused, Attempted, or Threatened Physical Injury
48900(t)	Aided or Abetted Physical Injury
48900.4	Harassment or Intimidation
48900(o)	Harassment, Intimidation of a Witness
48900.7	Made Terrorist Threats
48900(i)	Obscene Acts, Profanity, and Vulgarity
48900(r)	Bullying

**Weapons Possession**

This Federal Offense Category includes the following California Education Code sections:

California Education Code Section	Offense Description
48915(c)(1)	Possession, Sale, Furnishing a Firearm
48900(b)	Possession, Sale, Furnishing a Firearm or Knife
48915(c)(2)	Brandishing a Knife
48915(a)(1)(B)	Possession of a Knife or Dangerous Object
48915(c)(5)	Possession of an Explosive

**Illicit Drug Related (Includes Alcohol)**

This Federal Offense Category includes the following California Education Code sections:

California Education Code Section	Offense Description
48915(c)(3)	Sale of Controlled Substance
48915(a)(1)(C)	Possession of Controlled Substance
48900(c)	Possession, Use, Sale, or Furnishing a Controlled Substance, Alcohol, Intoxicant
48900(d)	Offering, Arranging, or Negotiating Sale of Controlled Substances, Alcohol, Intoxicants
48900(j)	Offering, Arranging, or Negotiating Sale of Drug Paraphernalia
48900(p)	Offering, Arranging, or Negotiating Sale of Soma

**“Defiance Only” for Suspension/Expulsion**

Any suspension or expulsion associated with a student in which the only offense committed by a student is Disruption is considered a “Defiance Only” incident.

California Education Code Section	Offense Description
48900(k) <sup>1</sup>	Disruption, Defiance <sup>1</sup>

**“Other” Reason for Suspension/Expulsion**

This category includes the following California Education Code sections, most of which are NOT included in any of the Federal Offense Categories. The only offense that is reportable in the Federal category of “Other” is EC 48900(m)—Possession of an Imitation Firearm:

California Education Code Section	Offense Description
48900(m)	Possession of an Imitation Firearm
48900(h)	Possession or Use of Tobacco Products <sup>2</sup>
48900(f)	Property Damage
48915(a)(1)(D)	Robbery or Extortion
48900(g)	Property Theft
48900(l)	Received Stolen Property

<sup>1</sup>See Section “Federal Offense Categories (And ‘Other’)” for more information.

<sup>2</sup>Tobacco related offenses are listed under the “Other” offense category for DataQuest reporting purposes, however, these same offenses are reported under the “Illicit Drug” offense category to the Federal US Department of Education.