



## Santa Clara County Office of Education

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County Superintendent of Schools

March 20, 2023

TO: Mary Ann Dewan, Ph.D., County Superintendent of Schools

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

SUBJECT: 2021-22 Santa Clara County Suspension Results

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The following information summarizes the 2021-22 school year suspension data. 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).

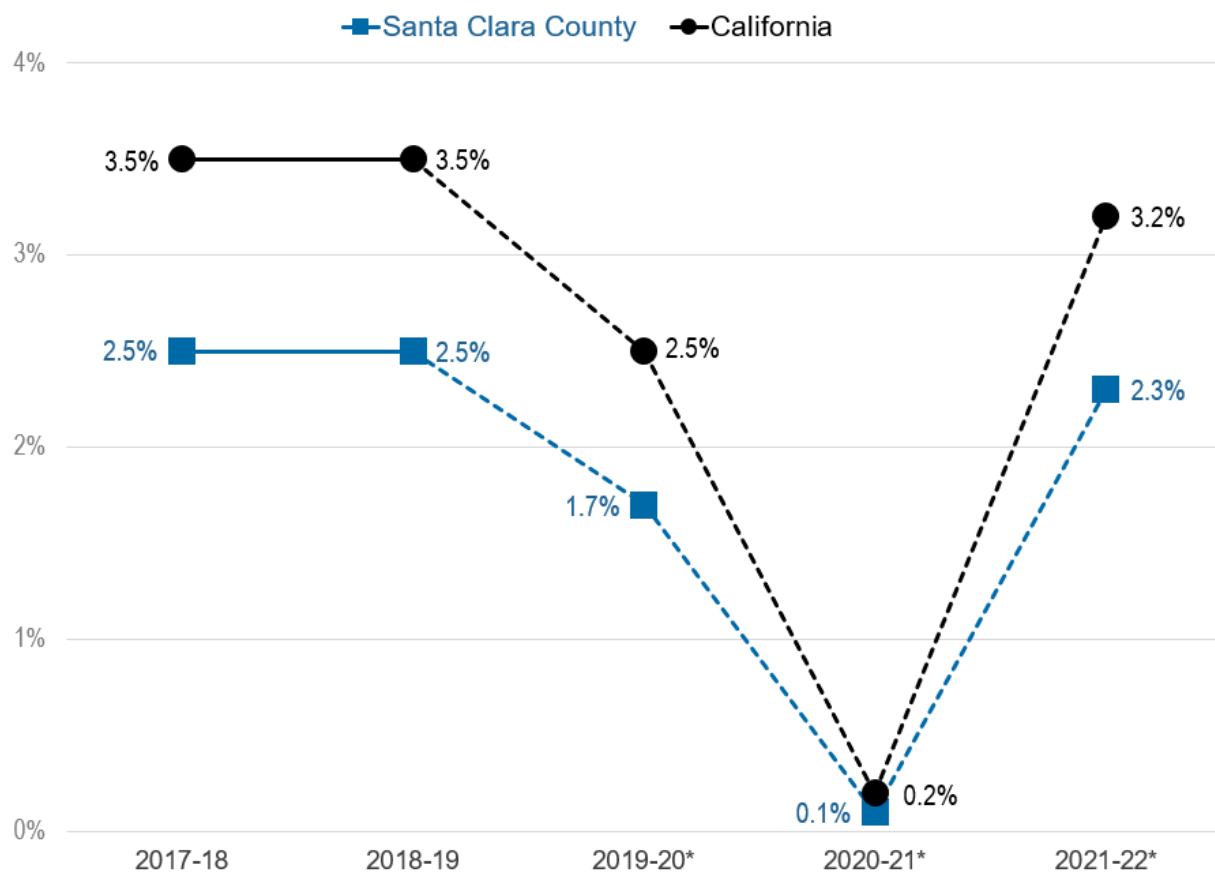
**Disproportionality:** For a given student group, a calculation of the percentage the student group represents of all students suspended divided by the percentage the student group represents of all students' total cumulative enrollment. A measure of 1 represents an equal (1 to 1) suspension to enrollment 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.

### SUSPENSION RATE OVER TIME

The following graph represents the suspension rates for Santa Clara County and California over the past five years. Santa Clara County's suspension rate has consistently been lower than California's rate, with the latest difference being the county rate of 2.3% compared to the statewide rate of 3.2%. Santa Clara County's 2.3% suspension rate in 2021-22 was slightly less than the pre-pandemic rate of 2.5% in 2017-18 and 2018-19.

*Figure 1: Suspension Rates from 2017-18 to 2021-22, Santa Clara County and California*



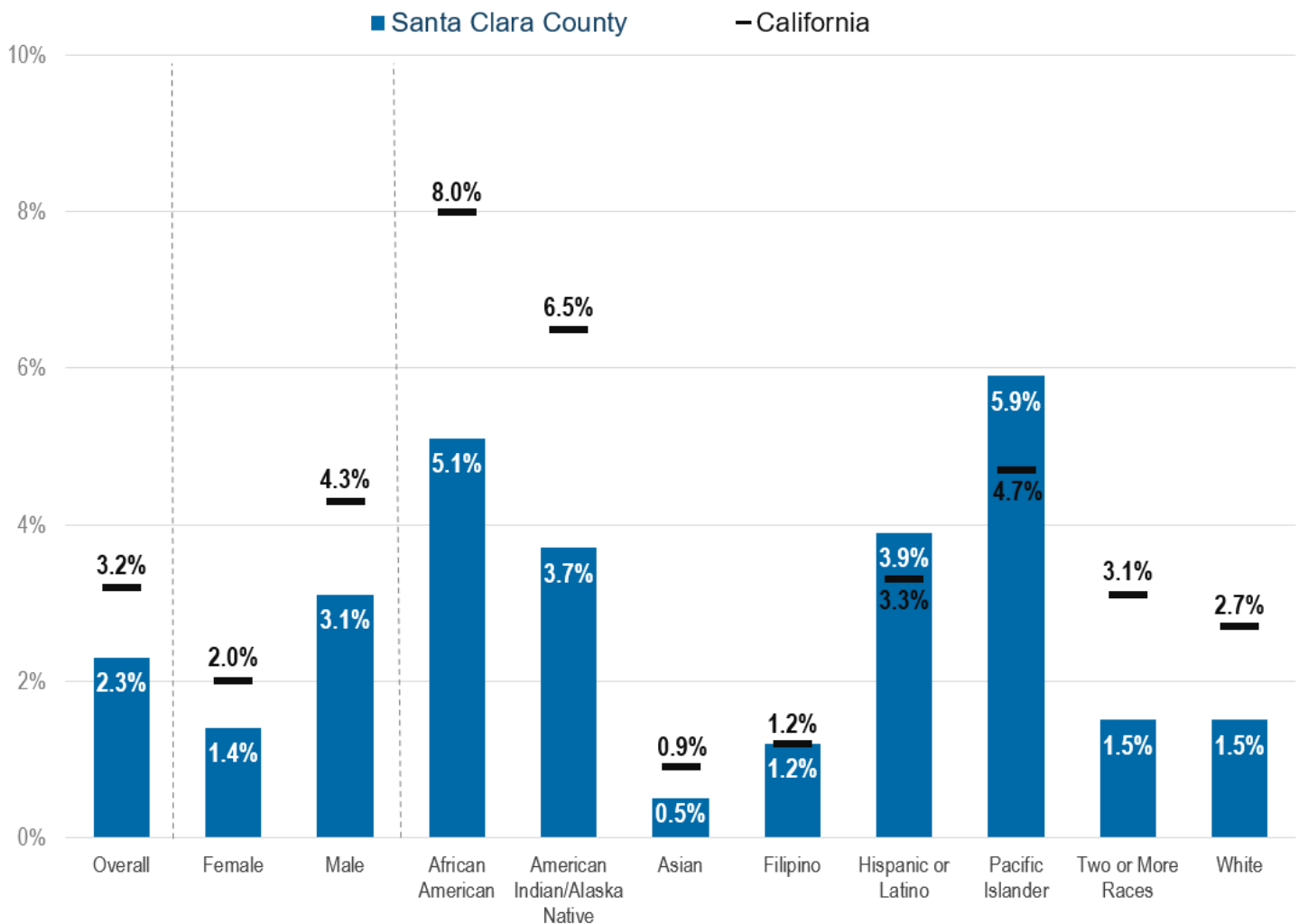
\*The COVID-19 pandemic resulted in statewide physical school closures in February/March 2020 followed by the widespread implementation of distance learning during the 2020-21 school year. The CDE recommends caution when comparing discipline data across school years.

## 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/Latino (3.9% vs. 3.3%) and Pacific Islander (5.9% vs. 4.7%) and equal for Filipino (1.2%) students.

Within Santa Clara County, the male suspension rate was more than twice the rate for females, and the 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 groups.

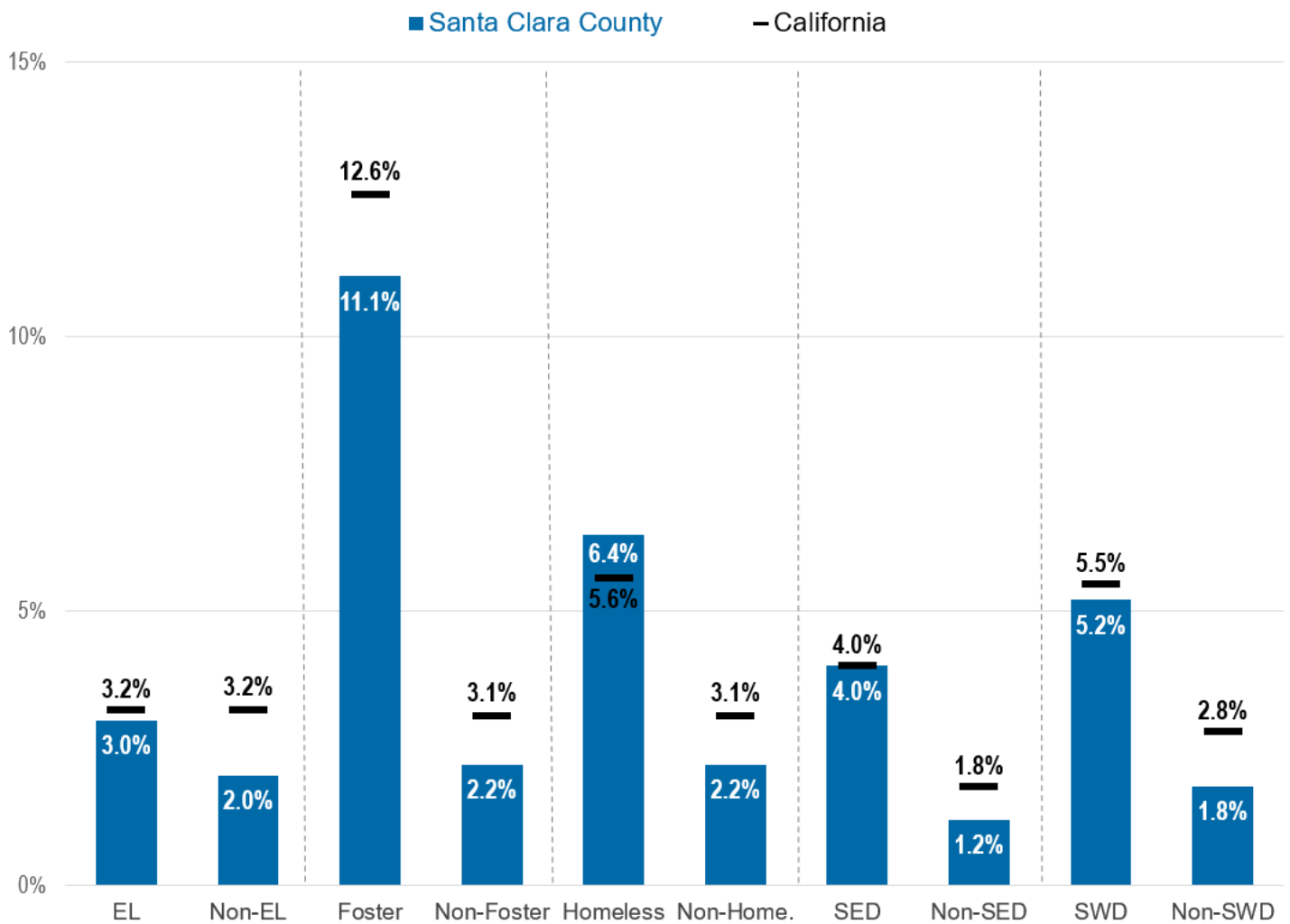
Figure 2: 2021-22 Suspension Rates by Gender and Race/Ethnicity, Santa Clara County and California



Similarly, when overall results are disaggregated by programs as displayed below, Santa Clara County's suspension rates were most often lower than the statewide rates. The exceptions were that Santa Clara County's suspension rates were higher than California's for Homeless (6.4% vs. 5.6%) and equal for Socioeconomically Disadvantaged (4.0%) students.

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: 2021-22 Suspension Rates by Student Program, Santa Clara County and California

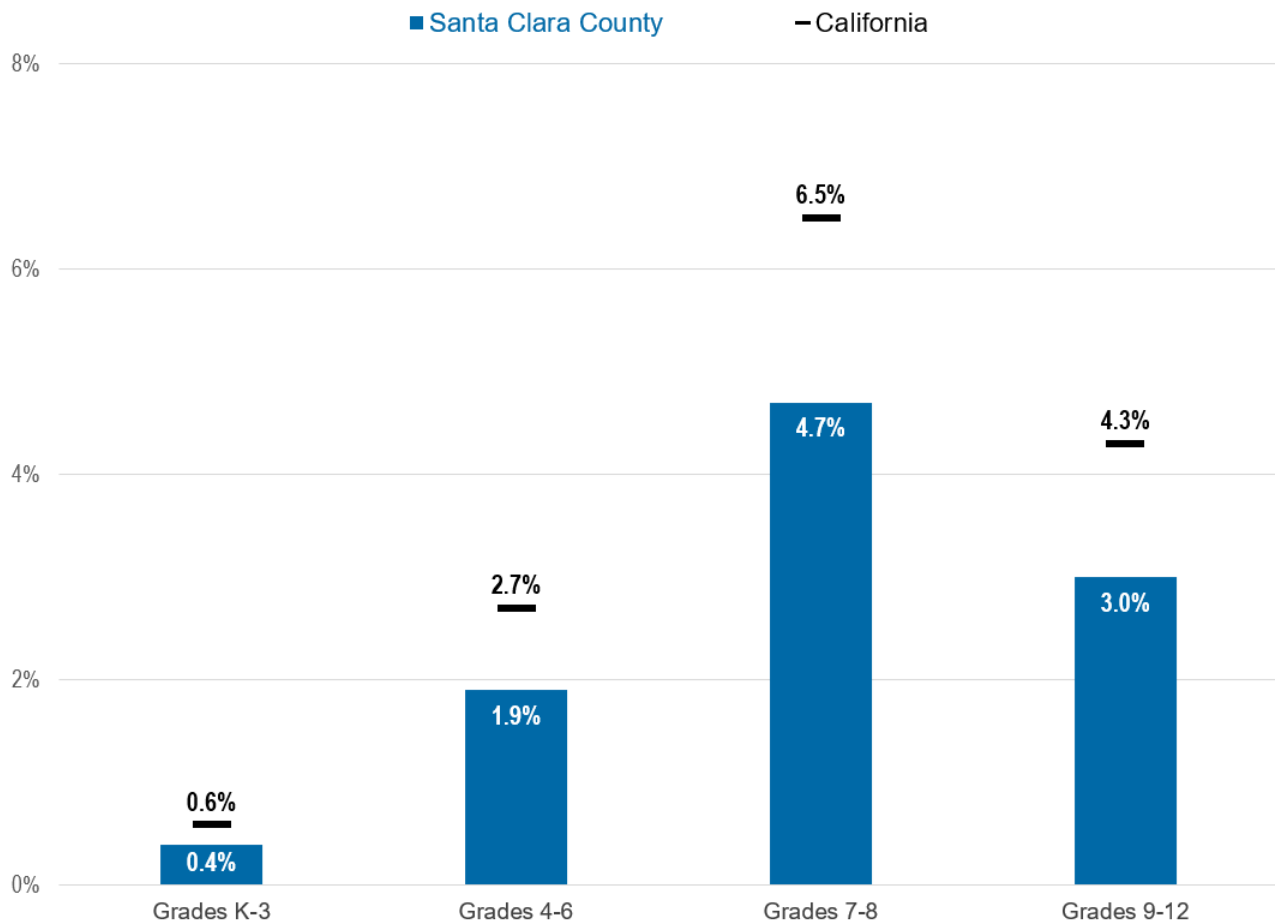


EL – English Learner  
 Non-Home. – Non-Homeless  
 SED – Socioeconomically Disadvantaged  
 SWD – Students with Disabilities

**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 the grade spans. When grade spans are compared to one another, students in grades 7-8 had the highest suspension rate followed students in grades 9-12. In Santa Clara County, the suspension rate for grades 7-8 was 4.7% and the rate for grades 9-12 was 3.0%

*Figure 4: 2021-22 Suspension Rates by Grade Span, Santa Clara County and California*

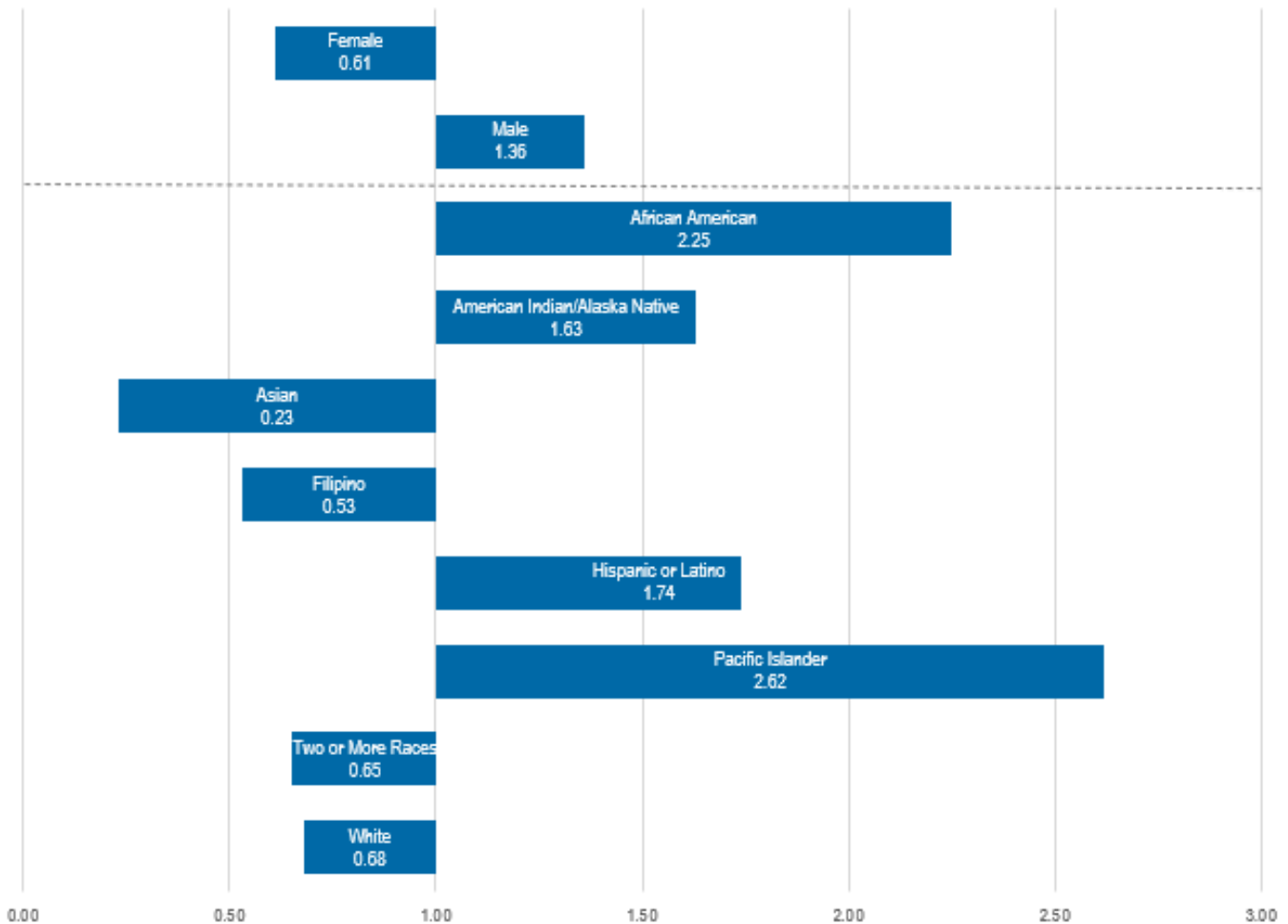


## DISPROPORTIONALITY OF STUDENTS SUSPENDED

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 students suspended total compared to the percentage they represent of the enrollment total (see glossary at beginning for examples). Hispanic/Latino students are over-represented in the cohort of suspended students by a measure of 1.74 (74% higher than their enrollment ratio), African American students are over-represented by a measure of 2.25 (125% higher) and Pacific Islander students are over-represented by a measure of 2.62 (162% higher).

The 1.74 measure for Santa Clara County Hispanic/Latino students compares to a 1.06 measure statewide. The 2.62 measure for Santa Clara County Pacific Islander students compares to a 1.47 measure statewide. (See Tables 1 and 2 on pages 9-10 for Santa Clara County and statewide enrollment and suspension counts, rates, and disproportionality measures.)

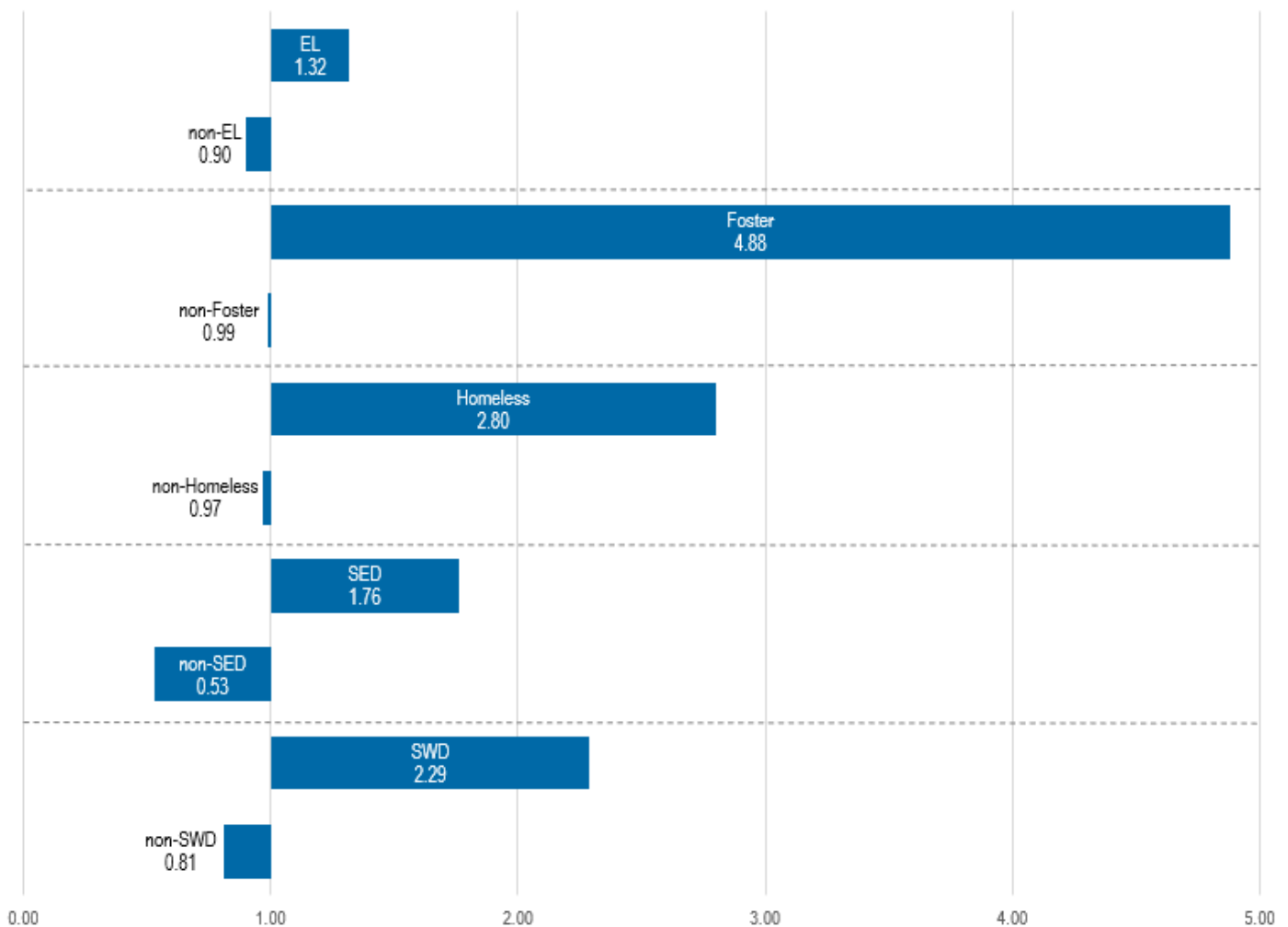
*Figure 5: 2021-22 Disproportionality of Students Suspended by Gender and Race/Ethnicity, Santa Clara County*



In the same fashion as the previous page, the illustration below displays the disproportionality of Santa Clara County's students suspended by programs. Though Foster students have the smallest cumulative enrollment (615 students) the group is by far the most disproportionately represented amongst students suspended with a measure of 4.88 (388% higher than their enrollment ratio). The disproportionate numbers of students suspended is also quite alarming for Socioeconomically Disadvantaged (1.76 or 76% higher), Students with Disabilities (2.29 or 129% higher) and Homeless (2.80 or 180% higher).

The disproportionality measures for Santa Clara County's program groups are higher than their statewide counterparts: Foster (4.88 vs. 3.98); Homeless (2.80 vs 1.75); Student with Disabilities (2.29 vs. 1.74); Socioeconomically Disadvantaged (1.76 vs. 1.27); and English Learners (1.32 vs. 1.02). (See Tables 1 and 2 on pages 9-10 for Santa Clara County and statewide enrollment and suspension counts, rates, and disproportionality measures.)

*Figure 6: 2021-22 Disproportionality of Students Suspended by Program, Santa Clara County*

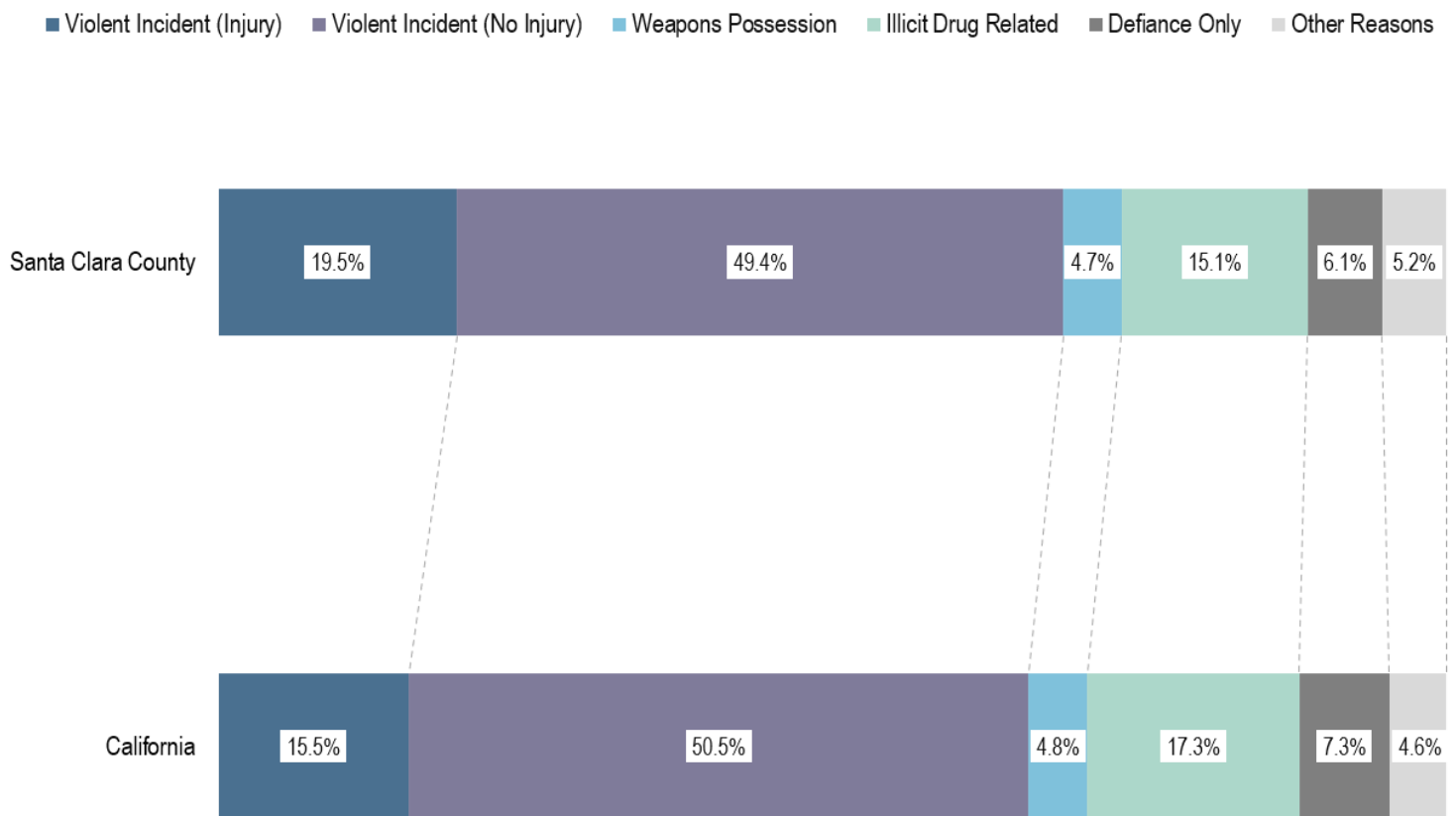


EL – English Learners; SED – Socioeconomically Disadvantaged; SWD – Students with Disabilities

### 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 2021-22 school year. About half of all suspension incidents in Santa Clara County and statewide have a Violent Incident (No Injury) as the most serious offense category. The largest difference between Santa Clara County and California in 2021-21 was that in Santa Clara County, 19.5% of suspension incidents' most serious category was Violent Incident (Injury) compared to a 15.5% rate statewide. (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: 2021-22 Most Serious Offense Categories of Suspensions, Santa Clara County and California*





*Table 1: 2021-22 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	251,220		5,695	2.3%		
African American	4,666	1.9%	238	5.1%	4.2%	2.25
American Indian/Alaska Native	731	0.3%	27	3.7%	0.5%	1.63
Asian	76,535	30.5%	391	0.5%	6.9%	0.23
Filipino	9,325	3.7%	111	1.2%	1.9%	0.53
Hispanic or Latino	100,199	39.9%	3,947	3.9%	69.3%	1.74
Pacific Islander	1,044	0.4%	62	5.9%	1.1%	2.62
Two or More Races	14,029	5.6%	206	1.5%	3.6%	0.65
White	42,076	16.7%	652	1.5%	11.4%	0.68
Female	121,175	48.2%	1,681	1.4%	29.5%	0.61
Male	129,842	51.7%	4,006	3.1%	70.3%	1.36
English Learners	59,429	23.7%	1,774	3.0%	31.2%	1.32
non-English Learners	191,791	76.3%	3,921	2.0%	68.8%	0.90
Foster	615	0.2%	68	11.1%	1.2%	4.88
non-Foster	250,605	99.8%	5,627	2.2%	98.8%	0.99
Homeless	4,515	1.8%	287	6.4%	5.0%	2.80
non-Homeless	246,705	98.2%	5,408	2.2%	95.0%	0.97
Socioecon. Disadvantaged	95,342	38.0%	3,806	4.0%	66.8%	1.76
non-Socioecon. Disadvantaged	155,878	62.0%	1,889	1.2%	33.2%	0.53
Students with Disabilities	31,734	12.6%	1,650	5.2%	29.0%	2.29
non-Students with Disabilities	219,486	87.4%	4,045	1.8%	71.0%	0.81

*Table 2: 2021-22 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	6,064,658		192,365	3.2%		
African American	315,483	5.2%	25,236	8.0%	13.1%	2.52
American Indian/Alaska Native	27,969	0.5%	1,827	6.5%	0.9%	2.06
Asian	577,116	9.5%	5,318	0.9%	2.8%	0.29
Filipino	138,925	2.3%	1,697	1.2%	0.9%	0.39
Hispanic or Latino	3,383,799	55.8%	113,324	3.3%	58.9%	1.06
Pacific Islander	25,913	0.4%	1,212	4.7%	0.6%	1.47
Two or More Races	258,100	4.3%	7,895	3.1%	4.1%	0.96
White	1,272,249	21.0%	34,163	2.7%	17.8%	0.85
Female	2,942,890	48.5%	59,425	2.0%	30.9%	0.64
Male	3,117,405	51.4%	132,720	4.3%	69.0%	1.34
English Learners	1,215,972	20.1%	39,398	3.2%	20.5%	1.02
non-English Learners	4,848,686	79.9%	152,967	3.2%	79.5%	0.99
Foster	43,191	0.7%	5,457	12.6%	2.8%	3.98
non-Foster	6,021,467	99.3%	186,908	3.1%	97.2%	0.98
Homeless	224,191	3.7%	12,444	5.6%	6.5%	1.75
non-Homeless	5,840,467	96.3%	179,921	3.1%	93.5%	0.97
Socioecon. Disadvantaged	3,760,878	62.0%	151,997	4.0%	79.0%	1.27
non-Socioecon. Disadvantaged	2,303,780	38.0%	40,368	1.8%	21.0%	0.55
Students with Disabilities	847,670	14.0%	46,788	5.5%	24.3%	1.74
non-Students with Disabilities	5,216,988	86.0%	145,577	2.8%	75.7%	0.88

# 2022 Santa Clara County Suspension Results

*Table 3: 2021-22 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	
African American	374	112	29.9%	166	44.4%	12	3.2%	39	10.4%	19	5.1%	26	7.0%
American Indian or Alaska Native	40	10	25.0%	21	52.5%	2	5.0%	4	10.0%	3	7.5%	0	0.0%
Asian	485	101	20.8%	260	53.6%	27	5.6%	51	10.5%	19	3.9%	27	5.6%
Filipino	133	32	24.1%	57	42.9%	6	4.5%	22	16.5%	5	3.8%	11	8.3%
Hispanic or Latino	6,092	1,176	19.3%	2,914	47.8%	284	4.7%	999	16.4%	409	6.7%	310	5.1%
Pacific Islander	91	29	31.9%	32	35.2%	7	7.7%	18	19.8%	1	1.1%	4	4.4%
Two or More Races	337	59	17.5%	171	50.7%	18	5.3%	50	14.8%	24	7.1%	15	4.5%
White	981	154	15.7%	568	57.9%	48	4.9%	117	11.9%	42	4.3%	52	5.3%
Female	2,370	532	22.4%	1,017	42.9%	85	3.6%	535	22.6%	132	5.6%	69	2.9%
Male	6,258	1,150	18.4%	3,241	51.8%	323	5.2%	770	12.3%	392	6.3%	382	6.1%
English Learners	2,765	541	19.6%	1,360	49.2%	115	4.2%	429	15.5%	151	5.5%	169	6.1%
non-English Learners	5,871	1,141	19.4%	2,902	49.4%	294	5.0%	879	15.0%	373	6.4%	282	4.8%
Foster	124	22	17.7%	68	54.8%	12	9.7%	7	5.6%	6	4.8%	9	7.3%
non-Foster	8,512	1,660	19.5%	4,194	49.3%	397	4.7%	1,301	15.3%	518	6.1%	442	5.2%
Homeless	460	86	18.7%	230	50.0%	22	4.8%	74	16.1%	30	6.5%	18	3.9%
non-Homeless	8,176	1,596	19.5%	4,032	49.3%	387	4.7%	1,234	15.1%	494	6.0%	433	5.3%
Socio-econ. Disadvantaged	6,003	1,189	19.8%	2,925	48.7%	292	4.9%	935	15.6%	362	6.0%	300	5.0%
non-Socio-econ. Disadvantaged	2,633	493	18.7%	1,337	50.8%	117	4.4%	373	14.2%	162	6.2%	151	5.7%
Students with Disabilities	2,981	605	20.3%	1,507	50.6%	120	4.0%	391	13.1%	195	6.5%	163	5.5%
non-Students with Disabilities	5,655	1,077	19.0%	2,755	48.7%	289	5.1%	917	16.2%	329	5.8%	288	5.1%
Santa Clara County	8,636	1,682	19.5%	4,262	49.4%	409	4.7%	1,308	15.1%	524	6.1%	451	5.2%
California	292,423	45,422	15.5%	147,546	50.5%	14,021	4.8%	50,467	17.3%	21,465	7.3%	13,502	4.6%

**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.