

## APPENDIX A. SCHOOL PRACTICES AND POLICIES RELATED TO SAFETY AND DISCIPLINE\*

Concern over school crime and violence has prompted many public schools to take various measures to reduce and prevent violence and ensure safety in schools. Such measures include adopting zero tolerance policies; requiring students to wear uniforms; employing various security measures such as requiring visitor sign-in and using metal detectors; having police or other law enforcement representatives stationed at the school; and offering students various types of violence prevention programs. Presented in this appendix are data on the implementation of such safety measures in public schools. This report does not evaluate the effectiveness of any of these efforts or strategies, and the inclusion of a strategy does not suggest that it is endorsed by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) or the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) as an effective means of reducing or preventing violence. Likewise, the omission of a possible strategy does not suggest it is rejected by NCES or BJS as a policy to reduce or prevent violence. This information, along with supporting tables, was drawn from a recent NCES report titled *Violence and Discipline Problems in U.S. Public Schools: 1996–97* (NCES 98-030). The report was based on data from the 1996–97 Fast Response Survey System (FRSS) Principal/School Disciplinary Survey on School Violence. Readers should consult that report for more detailed findings on variation by school characteristics.

### ***Zero Tolerance Policies***

- Most public schools reported having zero tolerance policies toward serious student offenses (table A1). A “zero tolerance policy” was defined as a school or district policy that mandates predetermined consequences or punishments for specific offenses. At least 9 out of 10 schools reported zero tolerance policies for firearms (94 percent) and weapons other than firearms (91 percent). Eighty-seven percent of schools had policies of zero tolerance for alcohol and 88 percent had zero tolerance policies for drugs. Most schools also had zero tolerance policies for violence and tobacco (79 percent each).

### ***School Uniforms***

- Requiring students to wear school uniforms was not common. Three percent of all public schools required students to wear uniforms during the 1996–97 school year (table A2).

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\*This appendix repeats information from the 2000 *Indicators of School Crime and Safety* report.

### ***Security Measures***

- Schools took a number of measures to secure their schools. For example, 96 percent of public schools reported that visitors were required to sign in before entering the school building (table A3); 80 percent of public schools reported having a closed campus policy that prohibited most students from leaving the campus for lunch; 53 percent of public schools controlled access to their school building; and 24 percent of public schools controlled access to their school grounds. In addition, 19 percent of public schools reported conducting drug sweeps, with middle schools and high schools being more likely to use drug sweeps than elementary schools (36 and 45 percent, respectively, versus 5 percent). While 4 percent of public schools reported that they performed random metal detector checks on students, daily use of metal detectors as a security measure was not common: only 1 percent of public schools reported taking this measure.

### ***Presence of Police or Other Law Enforcement Representatives in Schools***

- In addition to the security measures described above, 6 percent of public schools reported having police or other law enforcement representatives stationed 30 hours or more at the school in a typical week during the 1996–97 school year; 1 percent of schools had them stationed from 10 to 29 hours; and 3 percent had them stationed from 1 to 9 hours. Twelve percent of schools did not have police or other law enforcement representatives stationed during a typical week but made them available as needed, and 78 percent of schools did not have any such persons stationed at their schools (table A4).

### ***Violence Prevention or Reduction Programs***

- A majority of public schools (78 percent) reported having some type of formal school violence prevention or reduction program (table A5). The percentage of schools with both 1-day and ongoing programs (43 percent) was higher than schools with only ongoing programs (24 percent) and schools with only 1-day programs (11 percent).

### ***Policies to Prevent Firearms in School***

- In the 1996–97 school year, there were over 5,000 student expulsions for possession or use of a firearm (table A6). An additional 3,300 students were transferred to alternative schools for possession or use of a firearm, while 8,144 were placed in out-of-school suspensions lasting 5 or more days. About 5 percent of all public schools (or 4,170) took one or more of these actions.

**Table A1.—Percentage of public schools that reported that they have a zero tolerance policy for various specified student offenses, by selected school characteristics: 1996–97**

School characteristics	Types of offenses					
	Violence	Firearms	Weapons other than firearms	Alcohol	Drugs	Tobacco
All public schools	79	94	91	87	88	79
Instructional level						
Elementary school	79	93	91	87	88	82
Middle school	75	95	90	86	90	77
High school	80	96	92	86	89	72
School enrollment						
Less than 300	76	93	89	84	84	76
300–999	79	94	91	88	89	82
1,000 or more	86	98	93	85	92	72
Locale						
City	87	97	95	89	91	83
Urban fringe	82	95	90	88	90	80
Town	71	90	86	82	83	77
Rural	76	94	92	88	89	78
Region						
Northeast	78	89	90	83	84	79
Southeast	83	95	89	90	92	80
Central	72	93	88	82	83	75
West	83	97	95	91	93	83
Percent minority enrollment						
Less than 5 percent	71	92	88	82	83	75
5–19 percent	79	94	92	89	90	80
20–49 percent	83	95	90	87	89	79
50 percent or more	85	97	94	90	92	83
Percent of students eligible for free or reduced-price school lunch						
Less than 20 percent	76	92	88	86	87	77
20–34 percent	77	94	90	87	88	82
35–49 percent	79	97	95	89	92	81
70–74 percent	80	95	90	85	88	79
75 percent or more	84	95	93	87	89	81

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Fast Response Survey System, "Principal/School Disciplinary Survey on School Violence," FRSS 63, 1997.

**Table A2.—Percentage of public schools that reported that students were required to wear school uniforms, by selected school characteristics: 1996–97**

School characteristics	Uniforms required
All public schools	3
Instructional level	
Elementary school	4
Middle school	4
High school	(*)
School enrollment	
Less than 300	†
300–999	4
1,000 or more	8
Locale	
City	9
Urban fringe	6
Town	(*)
Rural	(*)
Region	
Northeast	1
Southeast	4
Central	2
West	6
Percent minority enrollment	
Less than 5 percent	(*)
5–19 percent	†
20–49 percent	2
50 percent or more	13
Percent of students eligible for free or reduced-price school lunch	
Less than 20 percent	(*)
20–34 percent	1
35–49 percent	2
70–74 percent	5
75 percent or more	11

\*Less than 0.5 percent.

†No cases are reported in this cell, although the event defined by this cell could have been reported by some students with these characteristics had a different sample been drawn.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Fast Response Survey System, "Principal/School Disciplinary Survey on School Violence," FRSS 63, 1997.

**Table A3.—Percentage of public schools that reported that they use various types of security measures at their schools, by selected school characteristics: 1996–97**

School characteristics	Visitors must sign in	Closed campus for most students during lunch	Controlled access to school buildings	Controlled access to school grounds	One or more drug sweeps	Random metal detectors check on students	Students must pass through metal detectors each day
All public schools	96	80	53	24	19	4	1
Instructional level							
Elementary school	96	76	57	25	5	1	(*)
Middle school	96	93	51	22	36	7	1
High school	97	78	40	25	45	9	2
School enrollment							
Less than 300	91	67	40	16	22	(*)	1
300–999	98	84	57	24	15	4	1
1,000 or more	99	82	55	49	34	15	3
Locale							
City	100	81	62	35	12	8	2
Urban fringe	98	85	68	31	13	3	(*)
Town	96	77	49	20	23	2	1
Rural	92	75	33	13	27	2	(*)
Region							
Northeast	98	83	70	30	6	1	(*)
Southeast	99	86	52	28	24	9	1
Central	95	76	48	12	17	1	1
West	94	76	46	31	25	4	1
Percent minority enrollment							
Less than 5 percent	94	77	42	14	17	(*)	†
5–19 percent	97	81	55	22	23	1	(*)
20–49 percent	98	77	55	27	18	6	(*)
50 percent or more	97	84	63	38	18	9	4
Percent of students eligible for free or reduced-price school lunch							
Less than 20 percent	94	74	50	18	17	1	†
20–34 percent	99	77	51	19	20	3	(*)
35–49 percent	96	80	49	25	22	5	(*)
70–74 percent	95	85	57	27	22	4	1
75 percent or more	97	83	58	37	13	8	5

\*Less than 0.5 percent.

†No cases are reported in this cell, although the event defined by this cell could have been reported by some students with these characteristics had a different sample been drawn.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Fast Response Survey System, "Principal/School Disciplinary Survey on School Violence," FRSS 63, 1997.

**Table A4.—Percentage of public schools that reported various levels of police or other law enforcement representatives' presence during a typical week, by selected school characteristics: 1996–97**

School characteristics	Police or other law enforcement representatives				
	Stationed at school			Not stationed during a typical week, but available as needed	None stationed at school during 1996–97
	30 hours or more	10–29 hours	1–9 hours		
All public schools	6	1	3	12	78
Instructional level					
Elementary school	1	1	1	8	89
Middle school	10	3	5	17	65
High school	19	2	6	18	54
School enrollment					
Less than 300	1	(*)	1	9	89
300–999	4	1	3	12	80
1,000 or more	39	5	7	15	34
Locale					
City	13	4	3	11	69
Urban fringe	7	1	2	11	80
Town	5	1	4	11	78
Rural	1	(*)	2	14	83
Region					
Northeast	6	(*)	2	11	81
Southeast	9	2	2	11	77
Central	4	2	3	11	81
West	7	1	4	14	74
Percent minority enrollment					
Less than 5 percent	1	1	3	10	85
5–19 percent	6	1	3	10	80
20–49 percent	7	1	2	13	77
50 percent or more	13	3	3	14	67
Percent of students eligible for free or reduced-price school lunch					
Less than 20 percent	5	1	4	10	79
20–34 percent	7	1	2	10	80
35–49 percent	5	(*)	3	12	80
70–74 percent	6	2	1	13	78
75 percent or more	8	2	4	14	72

\*Less than 0.5 percent.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Fast Response Survey System, "Principal/School Disciplinary Survey on School Violence," FRSS 63, 1997.

**Table A5.—Percentage of public schools that reported formal school violence prevention or reduction programs or efforts, by selected school characteristics: 1996–97**

School characteristics	Percent of schools with:			
	Any programs	Only 1-day programs	Only ongoing programs	Both 1-day and ongoing programs
All public schools	78	11	24	43
Instructional level				
Elementary school	78	9	28	42
Middle school	82	7	19	56
High school	74	20	15	38
School enrollment				
Less than 300	68	14	20	34
300–999	81	10	26	45
1,000 or more	84	8	17	59
Locale				
City	87	5	25	57
Urban fringe	82	5	30	47
Town	72	11	22	38
Rural	73	21	18	35
Region				
Northeast	75	8	27	40
Southeast	84	13	28	44
Central	76	9	21	46
West	77	14	20	43
Percent minority enrollment				
Less than 5 percent	67	11	20	36
5–19 percent	78	10	24	44
20–49 percent	86	12	30	44
50 percent or more	84	10	22	52
Percent of students eligible for free or reduced-price school lunch				
Less than 20 percent	73	8	22	43
20–34 percent	75	6	24	44
35–49 percent	81	15	27	40
70–74 percent	80	16	20	44
75 percent or more	85	12	26	47

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Fast Response Survey System, "Principal/School Disciplinary Survey on School Violence," FRSS 63, 1997.

**Table A6.—Number and percentage of schools in which specified disciplinary actions were taken against students, total number of actions taken, and percentage of specific disciplinary actions taken against students, by type of infraction: 1996–97**

Infraction	Total number of schools taking one or more of these specified actions	Percent of schools taking one or more of these specified actions	Total number of these specified actions taken	Number of actions taken		
				Expulsions	Transfers to alternative schools or programs	Out-of-school suspensions lasting 5 or more days
Possession or use of a firearm	4,170	5	16,587	5,143	3,301	8,144
Possession or use of a weapon other than a firearm	16,740	22	58,554	13,698	12,943	31,970
Possession, distribution, or use of alcohol or drugs, including tobacco	20,960	27	170,464	30,522	34,255	105,723
Physical attacks or fights	30,160	39	330,696	50,961	62,108	217,627

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Fast Response Survey System, "Principal/School Disciplinarian Survey on School Violence," FRSS 63, 1997.

**Table A7.—Standard errors for table A1: Percentage of public schools that reported that they have a zero tolerance policy for various specified student offenses, by selected school characteristics: 1996–97**

School characteristics	Types of offenses					
	Violence	Firearms	Weapons other than firearms	Alcohol	Drugs	Tobacco
All public schools	1.6	1.0	1.2	1.2	1.1	1.5
Instructional level						
Elementary school	2.4	1.6	1.8	1.8	1.8	2.1
Middle school	2.3	1.4	1.7	2.0	1.8	2.3
High school	2.0	1.1	1.5	2.2	1.9	2.4
School enrollment						
Less than 300	3.8	2.7	3.1	3.6	3.6	3.8
300–999	1.8	1.0	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.5
1,000 or more	2.4	0.7	1.8	2.3	1.7	2.8
Locale						
City	2.5	1.4	1.6	2.2	2.1	2.3
Urban fringe	2.7	1.5	2.2	2.4	2.2	2.6
Town	3.2	2.4	2.5	2.7	2.7	3.1
Rural	3.5	2.0	2.3	2.4	2.3	2.9
Region						
Northeast	3.6	2.5	2.4	2.9	2.9	3.6
Southeast	2.6	1.3	2.1	1.5	1.4	2.7
Central	3.4	2.1	2.8	3.0	3.0	3.3
West	2.3	1.3	1.5	1.9	1.8	2.0
Percent minority enrollment						
Less than 5 percent	3.4	2.7	2.9	2.9	2.9	3.2
5–19 percent	3.9	1.8	2.2	2.6	2.6	2.9
20–49 percent	2.4	1.8	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.5
50 percent or more	2.2	1.2	1.4	1.9	1.9	2.1
Percent of students eligible for free or reduced-price school lunch						
Less than 20 percent	3.4	2.2	2.6	2.6	2.7	3.0
20–34 percent	3.7	2.7	2.9	3.1	3.0	3.2
35–49 percent	4.2	1.8	1.9	2.8	2.8	3.2
70–74 percent	3.2	1.8	2.3	3.1	2.8	3.2
75 percent or more	3.6	2.2	2.4	3.2	3.2	3.4

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Fast Response Survey System, "Principal/School Disciplinary Survey on School Violence," FRSS 63, 1997.

**Table A8.—Standard errors for table A2: Percentage of public schools that reported that students were required to wear school uniforms, by selected school characteristics: 1996–97**

School characteristics	Uniforms required
All public schools	0.6
Instructional level	
Elementary school	0.9
Middle school	0.8
High school	—
School enrollment	
Less than 300	†
300–999	0.9
1,000 or more	2.2
Locale	
City	1.9
Urban fringe	1.8
Town	—
Rural	—
Region	
Northeast	0.9
Southeast	1.4
Central	1.0
West	1.4
Percent minority enrollment	
Less than 5 percent	—
5–19 percent	†
20–49 percent	1.0
50 percent or more	2.3
Percent of students eligible for free or reduced-price school lunch	
Less than 20 percent	—
20–34 percent	0.7
35–49 percent	1.2
70–74 percent	1.6
75 percent or more	2.6

—Estimate of standard error is not derived because it is based on a statistic estimated at less than 0.5 percent or at 100 percent.

†No cases are reported in this cell, although the event defined by this cell could have been reported by some students with these characteristics had a different sample been drawn.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Fast Response Survey System, "Principal/School Disciplinary Survey on School Violence," FRSS 63, 1997.

**Table A9.—Standard errors for table A3: Percentage of public schools that reported that they use various types of security measures at their schools, by selected school characteristics: 1996–97**

School characteristics	Visitors must sign in	Closed campus for most students during lunch	Controlled access to school buildings	Controlled access to school grounds	One or more drug sweeps	Random metal detectors check on students	Students must pass through metal detectors each day
All public schools	0.9	1.7	1.9	1.5	1.1	0.4	0.3
Instructional level							
Elementary school	1.4	2.5	2.8	2.3	1.3	0.5	—
Middle school	1.2	1.7	2.7	1.9	2.4	1.0	0.4
High school	1.0	2.2	2.3	2.0	3.2	1.1	0.7
School enrollment							
Less than 300	3.0	3.9	3.7	3.2	3.2	—	0.4
300–999	0.6	1.8	2.4	2.1	1.1	0.6	0.4
1,000 or more	0.5	2.5	3.3	3.3	2.8	1.9	0.9
Locale							
City	—	2.9	3.2	3.7	1.0	1.0	0.5
Urban fringe	1.2	2.8	3.6	3.6	1.5	0.8	—
Town	1.5	3.6	3.7	2.7	2.8	0.8	0.8
Rural	2.4	3.4	3.8	2.8	3.0	1.0	—
Region							
Northeast	1.2	4.0	3.9	3.9	1.2	0.5	—
Southeast	0.9	2.8	3.9	2.8	2.4	1.4	0.7
Central	1.5	3.3	3.2	2.6	2.4	0.3	0.3
West	1.8	3.9	3.8	2.9	2.4	0.9	0.7
Percent minority enrollment							
Less than 5 percent	2.3	3.3	3.6	2.6	2.4	—	†
5–19 percent	1.1	3.2	3.9	3.0	2.6	0.7	—
20–49 percent	0.9	3.9	4.0	3.2	2.5	1.2	—
50 percent or more	1.6	3.2	4.1	3.8	2.1	1.3	1.2
Percent of students eligible for free or reduced-price school lunch							
Less than 20 percent	2.4	3.5	3.6	2.7	2.2	0.5	†
20–34 percent	0.5	3.6	4.6	3.5	3.0	0.8	—
35–49 percent	2.1	3.2	5.0	3.0	3.0	1.3	—
70–74 percent	1.9	4.0	4.4	3.9	2.9	0.8	0.4
75 percent or more	1.7	4.5	5.1	5.0	2.2	1.6	1.5

—Estimate of standard error is not derived because it is based on a statistic estimated at less than 0.5 percent or at 100 percent.

†No cases are reported in this cell, although the event defined by this cell could have been reported by some students with these characteristics had a different sample been drawn.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Fast Response Survey System, "Principal/School Disciplinary Survey on School Violence," FRSS 63, 1997.

**Table A10.—Standard errors for table A4: Percentage of public schools that reported various levels of police or other law enforcement representatives' presence during a typical week, by selected school characteristics: 1996–97**

School characteristics	Police or other law enforcement representatives				
	Stationed at school			Not stationed during a typical week, but available as needed	None stationed at school during 1996–97
	30 hours or more	10–29 hours	1–9 hours		
All public schools	0.4	0.3	0.4	1.0	1.1
Instructional level					
Elementary school	0.5	0.4	0.6	1.4	1.5
Middle school	1.3	0.8	1.1	1.9	2.4
High school	1.6	0.7	1.0	2.1	2.9
School enrollment					
Less than 300	0.4	—	0.5	2.4	2.8
300–999	0.6	0.4	0.6	1.2	1.3
1,000 or more	2.6	1.4	1.2	2.0	3.2
Locale					
City	1.4	1.2	0.8	2.9	3.1
Urban fringe	1.0	0.2	0.6	1.9	2.2
Town	0.9	0.5	1.1	1.6	1.9
Rural	0.5	—	0.8	2.3	2.5
Region					
Northeast	1.6	—	0.9	2.0	2.5
Southeast	1.1	0.8	0.8	2.1	2.5
Central	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.9	2.1
West	0.9	0.5	0.8	2.1	2.6
Percent minority enrollment					
Less than 5 percent	0.3	0.3	0.8	1.7	1.8
5–19 percent	0.9	0.3	0.8	1.8	2.3
20–49 percent	0.9	0.4	0.8	2.7	3.2
50 percent or more	1.7	1.3	0.9	2.6	3.1
Percent of students eligible for free or reduced-price school lunch					
Less than 20 percent	0.8	0.5	1.0	1.8	2.2
20–34 percent	1.0	0.5	0.7	1.9	2.3
35–49 percent	1.2	—	1.1	2.9	3.3
70–74 percent	1.2	0.9	0.4	2.6	3.2
75 percent or more	2.0	1.3	1.4	3.7	4.4

—Estimate of standard error is not derived because it is based on a statistic estimated at less than 0.5 percent or at 100 percent.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Fast Response Survey System, "Principal/School Disciplinary Survey on School Violence," FRSS 63, 1997.

**Table A11.—Standard errors for table A5: Percentage of public schools that reported formal school violence prevention or reduction programs or efforts, by selected school characteristics: 1996–97**

School characteristics	Percent of schools with:			
	Any programs	Only 1-day programs	Only ongoing programs	Both 1-day and ongoing programs
All public schools	1.5	1.2	1.6	1.4
Instructional level				
Elementary school	2.3	1.6	2.5	2.5
Middle school	2.0	1.5	1.9	2.8
High school	2.2	2.4	1.8	2.1
School enrollment				
Less than 300	4.2	3.0	4.0	4.0
300–999	1.6	1.2	1.9	1.8
1,000 or more	2.8	1.5	2.5	3.7
Locale				
City	2.6	1.4	3.3	3.6
Urban fringe	3.0	1.3	3.1	3.3
Town	3.5	2.3	3.1	3.1
Rural	3.2	3.2	2.9	3.3
Region				
Northeast	4.4	2.3	4.0	4.1
Southeast	2.5	2.8	3.4	3.7
Central	3.3	1.7	2.7	3.6
West	2.8	2.3	2.5	2.8
Percent minority enrollment				
Less than 5 percent	3.7	2.0	2.8	3.6
5–19 percent	3.5	1.9	2.5	3.1
20–49 percent	2.7	2.6	3.7	3.7
50 percent or more	2.7	2.5	3.0	3.4
Percent of students eligible for free or reduced-price school lunch				
Less than 20 percent	3.0	1.5	2.9	3.4
20–34 percent	3.0	2.0	3.7	3.9
35–49 percent	4.2	3.5	4.6	3.8
70–74 percent	3.6	3.2	3.8	3.9
75 percent or more	3.4	3.8	4.3	4.6

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Fast Response Survey System, "Principal/School Disciplinary Survey on School Violence," FRSS 63, 1997.

**Table A12.—Standard errors for table A6: Number and percentage of schools in which specified disciplinary actions were taken against students, total number of actions taken, and percentage of specific disciplinary actions taken against students, by type of infraction: 1996–97**

Infraction	Total number of schools taking one or more of these specified actions	Percent of schools taking one or more of these specified actions	Total number of these specified actions taken	Number of actions taken		
				Expulsions	Transfers to alternative schools or programs	Out-of-school suspensions lasting 5 or more days
Possession or use of a firearm	480.6	0.6	3,778.2	1,094	1,139	2,495
Possession or use of a weapon other than a firearm	969.1	1.3	3,781.8	1,091	1,304	2,714
Possession, distribution, or use of alcohol or drugs, including tobacco	782.7	1.0	8,734.6	2,767	4,129	6,234
Physical attacks or fights	1,081.4	1.4	15,964.2	5,537	8,125	12,087

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Fast Response Survey System, "Principal/School Disciplinarian Survey on School Violence," FRSS 63, 1997.