

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 was drawn from two sources. First, some information and tables were drawn from an 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 Disciplinarian Survey on School Violence. Readers should consult the FRSS report for more detailed findings on variation by school characteristics. Second, data from the 1999–2000 Schools and Staffing Survey were used to update existing information with timely data on practices and policies related to safety and discipline.

Zero Tolerance Policies

- In 1996–97, 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).

*This appendix has been updated from the 2001 *Indicators of School Crime and Safety* report.

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).

Security Measures

- Schools took a number of measures to secure their schools. For example, in 1999–2000, 97 percent of public schools reported that visitors were required to sign in before entering the school building (table A3); 90 percent of public schools reported having a closed campus policy that prohibited most students from leaving the campus for lunch; 23 percent of schools reported the daily presence of police or security personnel; and 15 percent reported using video surveillance to monitor students and their school. In addition, 21 percent of public schools reported conducting drug sweeps, with secondary schools and combined elementary/secondary schools being more likely to use drug sweeps than elementary schools (49 and 40 percent, respectively, vs. 10 percent). While 8 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 as common: only 2 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, in 1996–97, 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 (table A4). 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.

Violence Prevention or Reduction Programs

- A majority of public schools (59 percent) reported having a school violence prevention program in 1999–2000 (table A5). Of those schools with a program, 58 percent employed a formal procedure to assess the effectiveness of the violence prevention program.

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					Tobacco
	Violence	Firearms	Weapons other than firearms	Alcohol	Drugs	
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: 1999–2000

School characteristics	Visitors must sign in	Closed campus for most students during lunch	Daily presence of police or security personnel	Video surveillance	One or more drug sweeps	Random metal detectors check on students	Students must pass through metal detectors each day
All public schools	97	90	23	15	21	8	2
Instructional level							
Elementary schools	97	94	15	11	10	5	1
Secondary schools	96	77	48	26	49	14	3
Combined elementary/secondary schools	93	82	29	20	40	19	8
School enrollment							
Less than 300	91	82	13	10	22	5	2
300–999	99	94	20	14	18	7	1
1,000 or more	99	87	75	32	37	20	4
Locale							
Central city	98	93	37	15	15	14	5
Urban fringe/Large town	98	91	23	15	17	5	1
Small town/Rural	93	85	14	14	31	7	1
Region							
Northeast	98	93	26	17	9	4	1
Midwest	93	85	18	16	21	5	2
South	99	95	28	19	32	15	3
West	96	86	22	6	14	3	(*)
Percent minority enrollment							
Less than 5 percent	94	89	12	14	23	3	(*)
5–19 percent	96	86	20	14	21	3	(*)
20–49 percent	97	90	23	15	21	8	1
50 percent or more	99	94	37	16	19	16	5
Percent of students eligible for free or reduced-price school lunch							
Less than 15 percent	95	85	23	17	20	4	(*)
15–29 percent	97	88	21	15	21	5	1
30–49 percent	97	90	20	13	23	7	1
50–74 percent	97	93	21	13	20	12	2
75 percent or more	98	95	33	16	20	13	5

*Less than 0.5 percent.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS), "Public and Public Charter School Surveys," 1999–2000.

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 school violence prevention programs in their schools, by selected school characteristics: 1999–2000

School characteristics	All public schools*		Elementary schools		Secondary schools	
	Percent with program	Of those with program, percent with procedure to assess effectiveness	Percent with program	Of those with program, percent with procedure to assess effectiveness	Percent with program	Of those with program, percent with procedure to assess effectiveness
All public schools	59	58	59	57	59	61
School enrollment						
Less than 300	53	57	53	57	51	55
300–999	61	58	61	57	60	62
1,000 or more	65	61	61	55	68	64
Locale						
Central city	66	66	65	66	69	67
Urban fringe/Large town	57	54	57	53	60	59
Small town/Rural	57	56	58	55	54	59
Region						
Northeast	56	49	54	45	63	61
Midwest	56	57	57	57	53	60
South	65	62	66	60	63	65
West	56	59	56	60	59	56
Percent minority enrollment						
Less than 5 percent	54	53	55	50	52	61
5–19 percent	58	54	58	53	58	57
20–49 percent	60	58	60	59	63	55
50 percent or more	64	65	63	64	67	69
Percent of students eligible for free or reduced-price school lunch						
Less than 15 percent	54	53	54	50	55	58
15–29 percent	55	55	56	52	55	61
30–49 percent	61	60	61	58	62	66
50–74 percent	62	58	62	57	64	63
75 percent or more	65	63	64	66	68	54

*Includes combined elementary/secondary schools not shown separately.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS), "Public and Public Charter School Surveys," 1999–2000.

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 Disciplinary Survey on School Violence," FRSS 63, 1997.

Table SA1.—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					Tobacco
	Violence	Firearms	Weapons other than firearms	Alcohol	Drugs	
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 SA2.—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 SA3.—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: 1999–2000

School characteristics	Visitors must sign in	Closed campus for most students during lunch	Daily presence of police or security personnel	Video surveillance	One or more drug sweeps	Random metal detectors check on students	Students must pass through metal detectors each day
All public schools	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.2	0.1
Instructional level							
Elementary schools	0.3	0.4	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.3	0.1
Secondary schools	0.5	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.7	0.5	0.3
Combined elementary/secondary schools	1.2	2.3	2.4	2.2	2.5	1.7	2.1
School enrollment							
Less than 300	0.7	1.0	0.9	0.8	1.0	0.4	0.4
300–999	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.5	0.3	0.1
1,000 or more	0.4	0.7	1.6	1.1	1.3	1.1	0.6
Locale							
Central city	0.3	0.6	1.2	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.5
Urban fringe/Large town	0.3	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.5	0.3	0.1
Small town/Rural	0.5	0.7	0.7	0.7	1.0	0.4	0.1
Region							
Northeast	0.4	0.7	1.0	1.4	0.8	0.4	0.3
Midwest	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.4	0.3
South	0.2	0.5	0.8	0.8	1.0	0.5	0.3
West	0.5	0.7	1.0	0.5	0.7	0.4	—
Percent minority enrollment							
Less than 5 percent	0.6	0.7	0.6	0.8	1.0	0.3	—
5–19 percent	0.5	0.9	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.4	—
20–49 percent	0.5	0.8	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.7	0.2
50 percent or more	0.2	0.5	1.1	0.8	1.0	0.8	0.5
Percent of students eligible for free or reduced-price school lunch							
Less than 15 percent	0.6	0.8	0.8	1.0	0.8	0.4	—
15–29 percent	0.5	1.0	1.0	0.9	1.0	0.4	0.2
30–49 percent	0.6	0.8	1.0	0.8	1.2	0.6	0.3
50–74 percent	0.5	0.6	1.1	1.0	1.2	1.0	0.3
75 percent or more	0.4	0.6	1.5	1.1	1.3	0.8	0.6

—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.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS), "Public and Public Charter School Surveys," 1999–2000.

Table SA4.—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 SA5.—Standard errors for table A5: Percentage of public schools that reported school violence prevention programs in their schools, by selected school characteristics: 1999–2000

School characteristics	All public schools*		Elementary schools		Secondary schools	
	Percent with program	Of those with program, percent with procedure to assess effectiveness	Percent with program	Of those with program, percent with procedure to assess effectiveness	Percent with program	Of those with program, percent with procedure to assess effectiveness
All public schools	0.7	0.9	0.9	1.1	1.0	1.2
School enrollment						
Less than 300	1.3	1.9	2.0	2.6	2.1	2.8
300–999	0.9	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.7
1,000 or more	1.6	2.0	4.0	5.5	1.4	1.6
Locale						
Central City	1.5	1.7	1.8	2.1	1.9	1.9
Urban Fringe/large Town	1.0	1.3	1.3	1.7	1.5	2.0
Small town/rural	1.2	1.4	1.7	2.0	1.7	1.9
Region						
Northeast	1.7	2.0	2.1	2.8	2.0	2.4
Midwest	1.2	1.9	1.7	2.4	1.6	2.2
South	1.2	1.4	1.5	1.7	1.6	1.8
West	1.6	1.6	2.1	2.1	2.0	2.8
Percent minority enrollment						
Less than 5 percent	1.3	1.7	1.7	2.4	1.9	2.2
5–19 percent	1.3	2.0	1.7	2.6	1.9	2.4
20–49 percent	1.5	1.8	1.9	2.2	2.0	2.5
50 percent or more	1.3	1.6	1.5	2.0	1.8	2.0
Percent of students eligible for free or reduced-price school lunch						
Less than 15 percent	1.6	1.7	2.1	2.7	1.6	2.2
15–29 percent	1.5	1.8	1.9	2.5	1.9	2.5
30–49 percent	1.6	2.0	2.2	2.6	2.0	2.2
50–74 percent	1.6	1.8	2.0	2.1	2.8	2.9
75 percent or more	1.6	1.9	1.9	2.2	2.7	4.9

*Includes combined elementary/secondary schools not shown separately.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Schools and Staffing Survey (SASS), "Public and Public Charter School Surveys," 1999–2000.

Table SA6.—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.