

Visualizing Florida School Safety Laws and Practices

F. Chris Curran
University of Florida

FAPEL 2025 Fall Conference

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Introductions

F. Chris Curran, PhD

Director, Education Policy Research Center

Professor of Educational Leadership and Policy

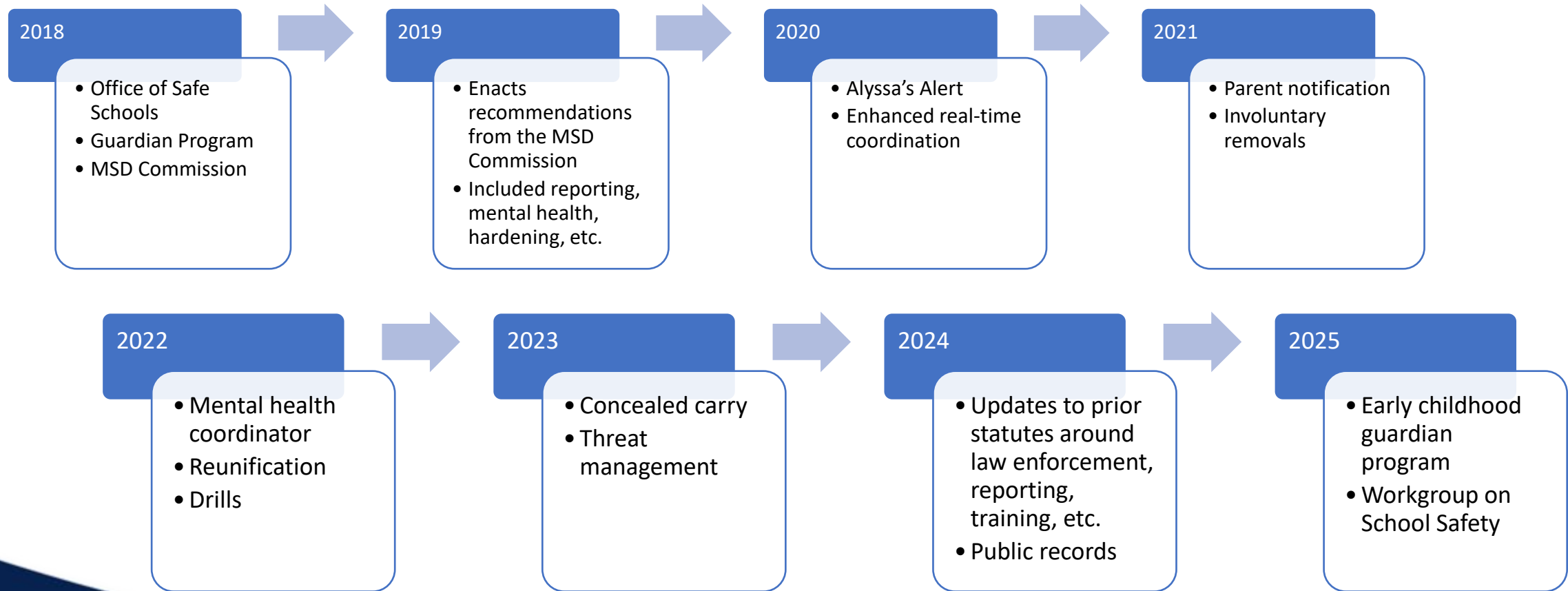
Educational Leadership and Policy, University of Florida

Dr. Curran's research applies quantitative causal inference techniques, mixed methodologies, and data science approaches to the study of education policy, with a goal of improving outcomes for all students. In particular, his recent work has focused on the ways that school discipline and safety contribute to educational outcomes.

Reflection

What are the top school safety concerns facing the educational leaders in your programs?

School Safety Legislation in Florida



Reflection

What does data-driven school safety decision-making look like?

The Problem Using School Safety Data

 **School Environmental Safety Incident Report (SESIR)**
2022-23, Final Survey 5
School Totals

Note: Discipline record match to School Safety when the involvement type = S/B. Incidents are included based on information reported on the School Environment Safety Incident Report (SESIR) format where incident Type is not 'HSN', 'UBL', 'UHR', 'USA', and 'USB'. The presence of, c a law enforcement officer or SRO is not sufficient for an incident to be coded as "Reported to Law Enforcement." Incident definitions can be found at: <https://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/20077/urlt/2223-appendp.xls>

Dist #	District Name	Sch #	School Name	Incident Type	Total Incidents	Incidents Reported to Law Enforcement	Gang related Incidents	Alcohol Related Incidents	Bullying Related Incidents	Hate Crime Related Incidents	Injury Related Incidents	Hazing Related Incidents	Weapon Related Incidents	Firearms Involved	Other Weapons Involved	Drug Related	Marijuana, Hashish	Other Illicit Drugs	OTC Drug
01	ALACHUA	0022	EARLY LEARNING ACADEMY AT DUVAL	AGGRAVATED BATTERY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
01	ALACHUA	0022	EARLY LEARNING ACADEMY AT DUVAL	ALCOHOL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
01	ALACHUA	0022	EARLY LEARNING ACADEMY AT DUVAL	ARSON	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
01	ALACHUA	0022	EARLY LEARNING ACADEMY AT DUVAL	BULLYING	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
01	ALACHUA	0022	EARLY LEARNING ACADEMY AT DUVAL	BURGLARY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
01	ALACHUA	0022	EARLY LEARNING ACADEMY AT DUVAL	CRIMINAL MISCHIEF - FELONY VANDALISM	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
01	ALACHUA	0022	EARLY LEARNING ACADEMY AT DUVAL	DISRUPTION ON CAMPUS-MAJOR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
01	ALACHUA	0022	EARLY LEARNING ACADEMY AT DUVAL	DRUG SALE/DISTRIBUTION	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
01	ALACHUA	0022	EARLY LEARNING ACADEMY AT DUVAL	DRUG USE/POSSESSION	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
01	ALACHUA	0022	EARLY LEARNING ACADEMY AT DUVAL	FIGHTING	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
01	ALACHUA	0022	EARLY LEARNING ACADEMY AT DUVAL	HARASSMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
01	ALACHUA	0022	EARLY LEARNING ACADEMY AT DUVAL	HAZING	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
01	ALACHUA	0022	EARLY LEARNING ACADEMY AT DUVAL	HOMICIDE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
01	ALACHUA	0022	EARLY LEARNING ACADEMY AT DUVAL	KIDNAPPING	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
01	ALACHUA	0022	EARLY LEARNING ACADEMY AT DUVAL	LARCENY/ GRAND THEFT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
01	ALACHUA	0022	EARLY LEARNING ACADEMY AT DUVAL	OTHER MAJOR	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
01	ALACHUA	0022	EARLY LEARNING ACADEMY AT DUVAL	PHYSICAL ATTACK Simple Battery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
01	ALACHUA	0022	EARLY LEARNING ACADEMY AT DUVAL	ROBBERY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
01	ALACHUA	0022	EARLY LEARNING ACADEMY AT DUVAL	SEXUAL ASSAULT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
01	ALACHUA	0022	EARLY LEARNING ACADEMY AT DUVAL	SEXUAL BATTERY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
01	ALACHUA	0022	EARLY LEARNING ACADEMY AT DUVAL	SEXUAL HARASSMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
01	ALACHUA	0022	EARLY LEARNING ACADEMY AT DUVAL	SEXUAL OFFENSES (Other)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

State and Districts **Schools**

Ready Page: 1 of 1316

Improving Data for School Discipline Conference



Safe Schools for Alex

After the 2018 tragedy at Marjory Stoneman Douglas H.S. in Parkland, FL, Safe Schools for Alex was founded by Max Schachter whose son Alex was one of the 17 victims.

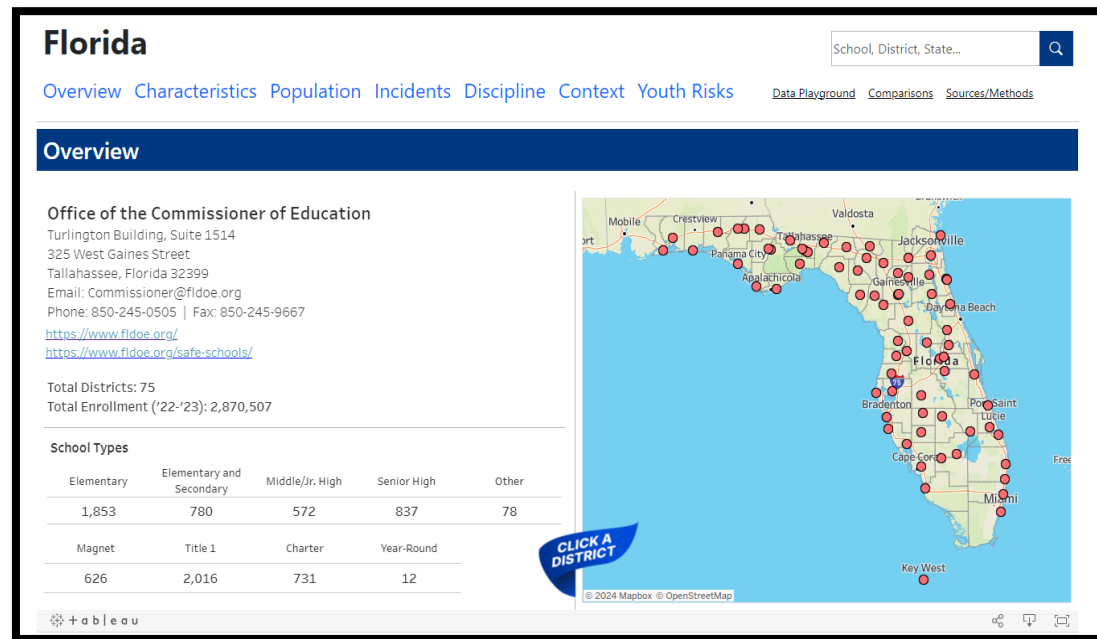
Their mission is to provide the most current school safety best practices and resources to students, parents, school districts and law enforcement so that all children can learn in a safe environment.

Max Schachter, Founder & CEO of Safe Schools for Alex

Alex Schachter



Florida School Safety Dashboard



- Through a BJA grant and partnership with Safe Schools for Alex, the Florida School Safety Dashboard was developed
- Timely data with hundreds of metrics and functionality to deeply explore school safety data
- Coupled with resources and training to support educators and parents
- Enhancing research on data-driven school safety decision-making

Enhanced Dashboard

29 individual dashboards * 137 distinct data files * 47 data types

In addition to SESIR and relateds:

Student Population

- Race
- Economically disadvantaged
- ELL
- SWD
- Homeless students

School Characteristics

- School grades
- Graduation rate
- Student-to-teacher ratio
- Stability rate
- Chronic absenteeism
- Suicide prevention certified
- Enrollment

District Characteristics

- Urbanicity
- Student to nurse, counselor, MH worker and staff ratios
- Per pupil expenditure
- Safe Schools allocation
- Mental health allocation
- Bus safety data

Discipline

- OSS
- ISS
- Expulsion

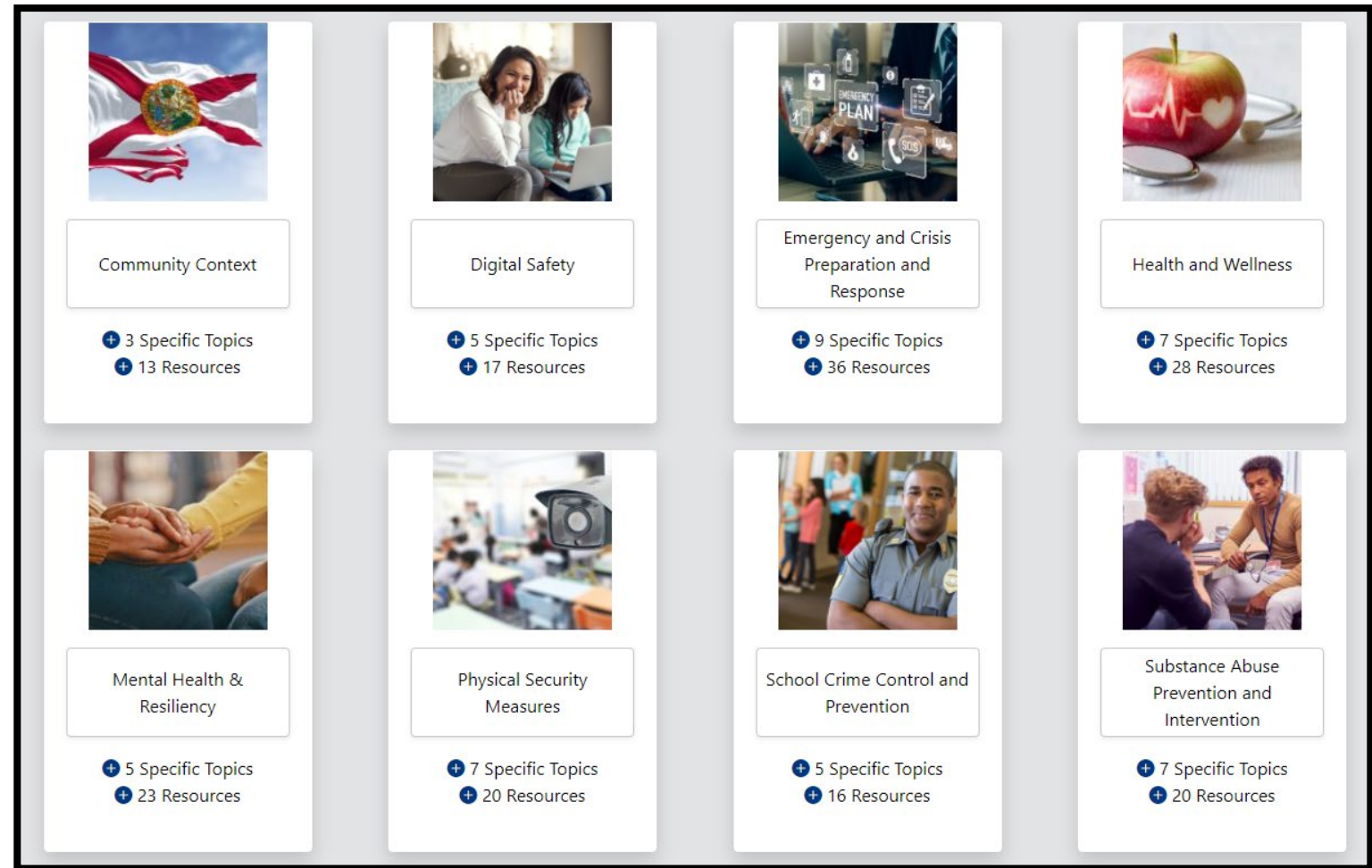
Youth Risk Exposure

- Youth suicide rate
- Juvenile “Baker Acts” per year
- Homicides of teens rate
- Teen parents
- STD rates
- Youth civil citations
- Youth arrest rate

County Context

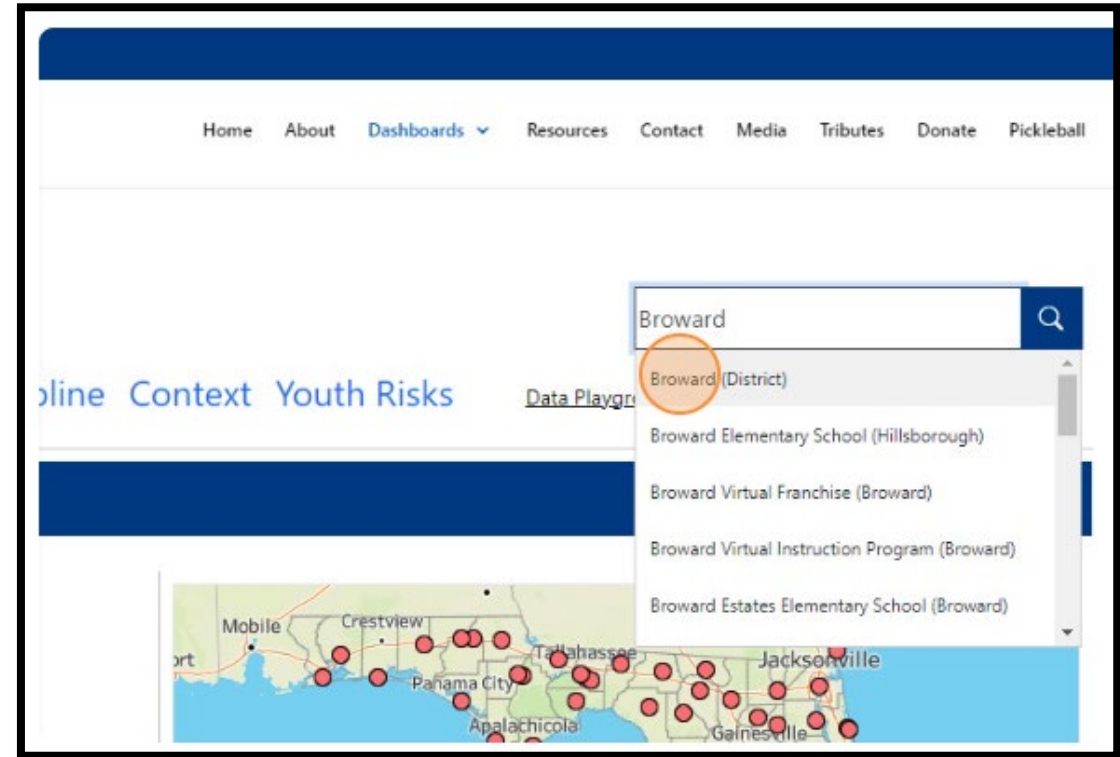
- Education level (bachelor's degree+)
- Unemployment
- Children in poverty
- Uninsured children
- Racial residential segregation rate
- Population/police ratio

Resources



District Level Dashboard

- Overview
- Characteristics
- Population
- Incidents
- Discipline
- County Context
- Youth Risks



School District: Broward



[Overview](#) [Characteristics](#) [Population](#) [Incidents](#) [Discipline](#) [County Context](#) [Youth Risks](#)

[Data Playground](#) [Comparisons](#) [Sources/Methods](#)

Overview

School District: Broward

600 S.E. Third Avenue, FL 10
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301-3125 - Urban
Phone: 754-321-0000

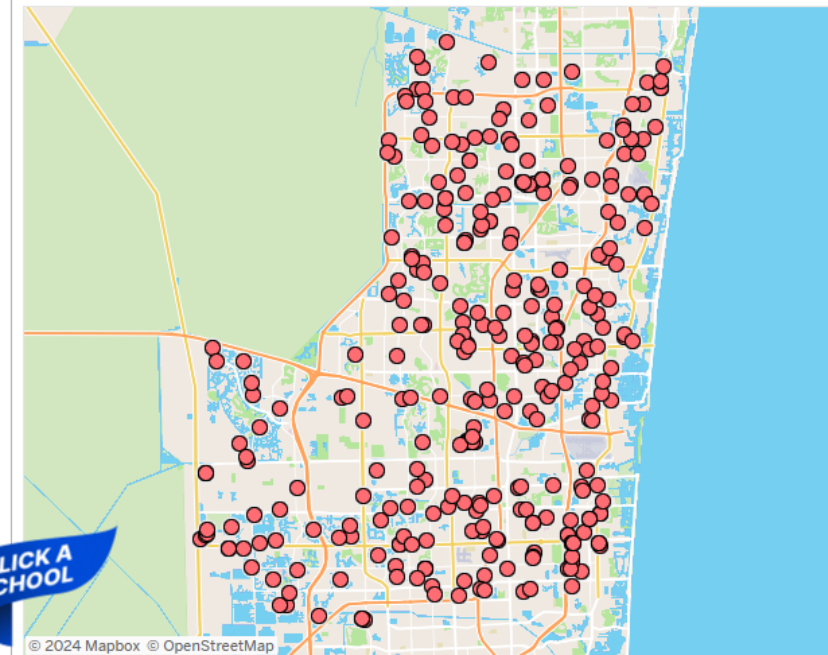
<http://www.browardschools.com/>

Superintendent: Dr. Peter B. Licata
Phone: 754-321-2600
Email: superintendent@browardschools.com

Total Enrollment ('22-23): 254,732

School Types

Elementary	Elementary and Secondary	Middle/Jr. High	Senior High	Other
164	48	48	56	1
Magnet	Title 1	Charter	Year-Round	
58	193	89	0	



+ a b l e a u



Characteristics

School District: Broward

Graduation and
Attendance

Supports

Funding

Bus Statistics

Ratios of Students to:

Nurses:

School Year '21-'22

1,758



57.2%

% change from
prior year

Counselors:

School Year '22-'23

371



0.6%

Social Workers + Psychologists:

School Year '22-'23

781



3.3%

Teachers:

School Year '21-'22

19



1.3%

Ratios are calculated as the number of students to 1 staff member

[Click here to see metric resources](#)

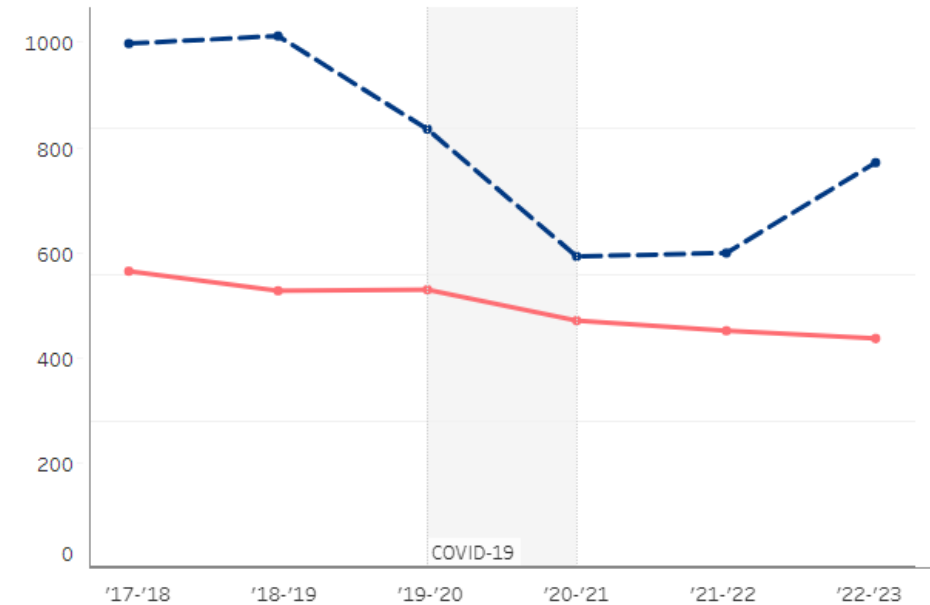
Select a metric for the chart below:

Student/Social Workers+Psych. Ratio

Selected District

Average of Districts

Student/Social Workers+Psych. Ratio ('17-'18 through '22-'23)



+ a b | e a u

🔗 📄 🖨

Population

School District: Broward

Total Enrollment ('22-'23): 254,732

181,789

Economically Disadvantaged Students



4,207

Students Without Housing ('21-'22)



32,014

English Language Learners



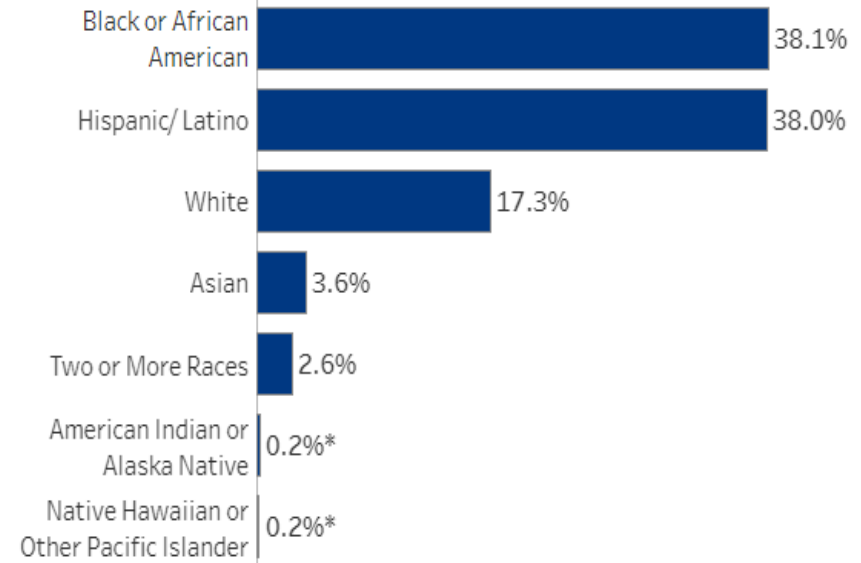
38,189

Students with Disabilities



[Click here to see metric resources](#)

+ a b | e a u



*Denotes data suppression. Data is suppressed when the total number of students is less than 10.
Suppressed race categories will not display student counts.

Download Print Full Screen

Safety Incidents

School District: **BROWARD**

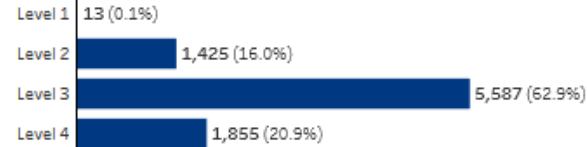
Overview

8,880

Incidents in '22-'23
School Year
As of Survey 5
Aug-Jul 2023

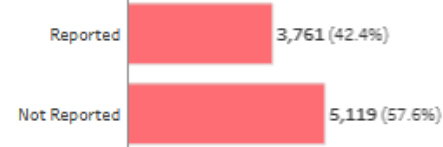
Incidents by Level of Severity

All Selected Incident Types | [Click to filter](#)



Incidents Reported to Law Enforcement

All Levels, All Incident Types | [Not all incidents result in arrest](#)

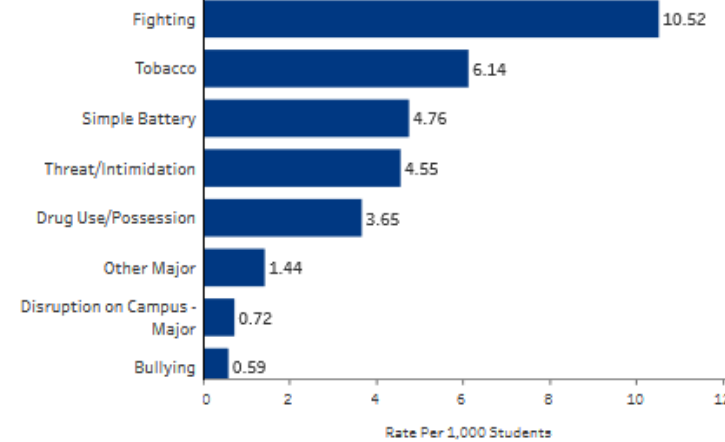


All Incidents

Level of Severity

Incident Rates by Incident Type: All Levels

As of Survey 5 (Aug-Jul 2023) | [Click to filter](#)



*Select an incident type above to see available resources

9,270 → 8,880

8,880

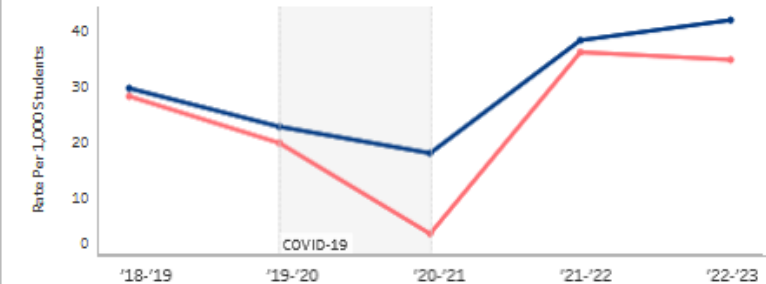
Incidents in '22-'23 school year
As of Survey 5 (Aug-Jul 2023)

▼ **4.2%**

Decrease since the last school year

Historical Incident Rates

All Selected Incident Types



Discipline

School District: **Broward**

As of Survey 5 (Aug '22-Jul '23)

% change
from prior year

Out-of-School Suspensions (OSS):	4,940	⬇️	-11.6%
Out-of-School Suspension Rate*:	19.39	⬇️	-11.2%
In-School Suspensions (ISS):	16,426	⬆️	7.4%
In-School Suspension Rate*:	64.48	⬆️	8.0%
Expulsions:	0	-	-
Expulsion Rate*:	0.00	-	-

*Rates calculated per 1,000 students

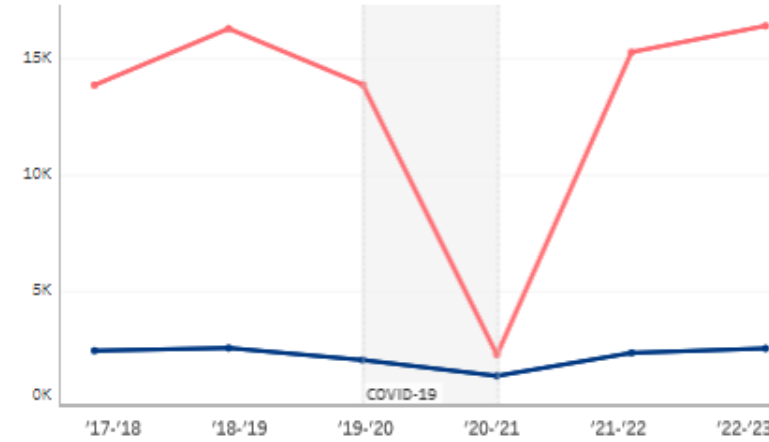
**Data suppressed at the school level when the total number of students in a category is less than 10.

Select a metric for the chart below:

In-School Suspensions

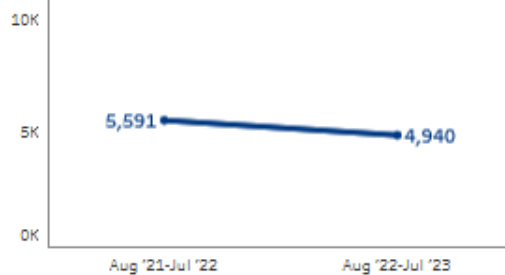
Selected District (○ = suppress) Average of Districts

In-School Suspensions ('17-'18 through '22-'23)



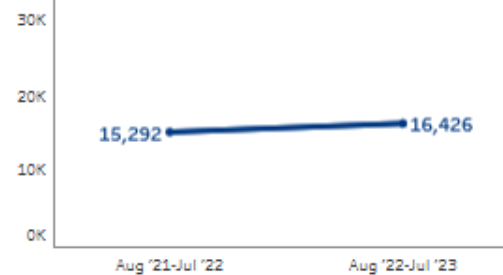
Out-of-School Suspensions (OSS)

As of Survey 5 (Aug '22-Jul '23)



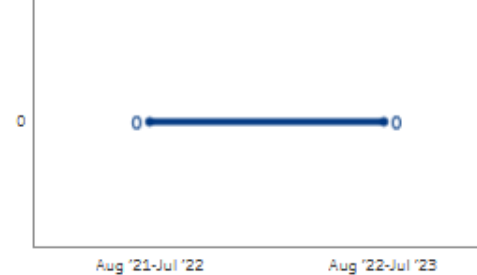
In-School Suspensions (ISS)

As of Survey 5 (Aug '22-Jul '23)



Expulsions

As of Survey 5 (Aug '22-Jul '23)



Context

County: **Broward**

			% change from prior year
Education Level: <i>Year: 2021</i>	34.3%	↗	3.6%
Unemployment: <i>Year: 2022</i>	2.9%	↘	-40.8%
Child Poverty: <i>Year: 2021</i>	15.9%	↘	-3.0%
Uninsured Children: <i>Year: 2021</i>	9.0%	↗	4.7%
Racial Segregation Index: <i>Year: 2020</i>	0.5	→	0.0%
Law Enforcement Population Ratio*: <i>Year: 2022</i>	2.16	↗	0.9%

[Click here to see metric resources](#)

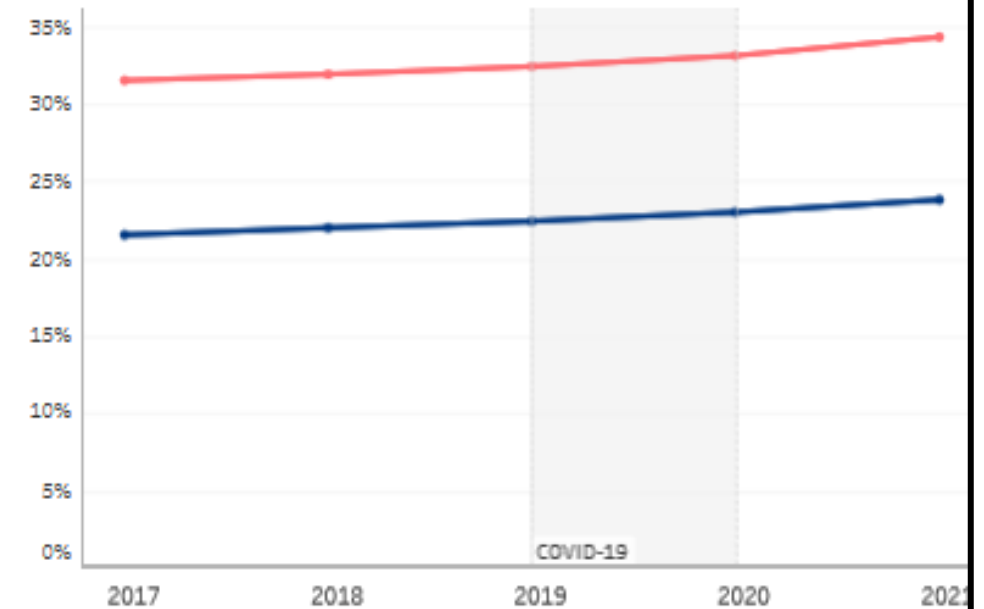
**Ratios/rates calculated per 1,000 residents*

Select a metric for the chart below:

Education Level

- Selected County
- Average of Counties

Education Level (2017 through 2021)
Compared to State Averages



Youth Risks

County: **Broward**

			% change from prior year
Teen Birth Rate Age 15-19*: <i>Year: 2021</i>	8.82	↘	-3.9%
Teen STD Rate Age 12-18*: <i>Year: 2022</i>	13.74	↗	23.2%
Juvenile Baker Act Rate*: <i>School Year: '20-'21</i>	4.34	↘	-1.0%
Youth Suicide Rate*: <i>Year: 2021</i>	0.01	↗	0.7%
Youth Homicide Rate*: <i>Year: 2021</i>	0.03	↗	23.1%
In-School Youth Civil Citations: <i>School Year: '22-'23</i>	1,369	↘	-23.9%
In-School Youth Arrests: <i>School Year: '22-'23</i>	264	↘	-15.7%

[Click here to see metric resources](#)

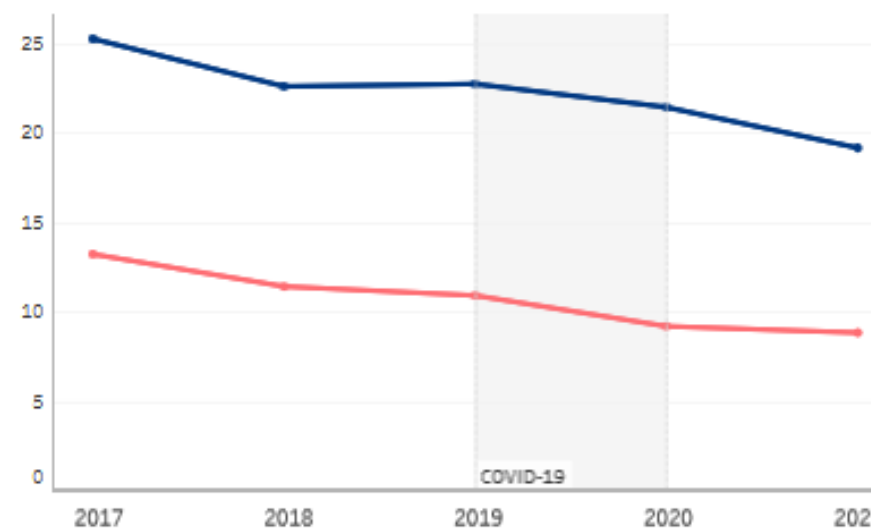
*Rates calculated per 1,000 students

Select a metric for the chart below:

Teen Birth Rate

Selected County
Average of Counties

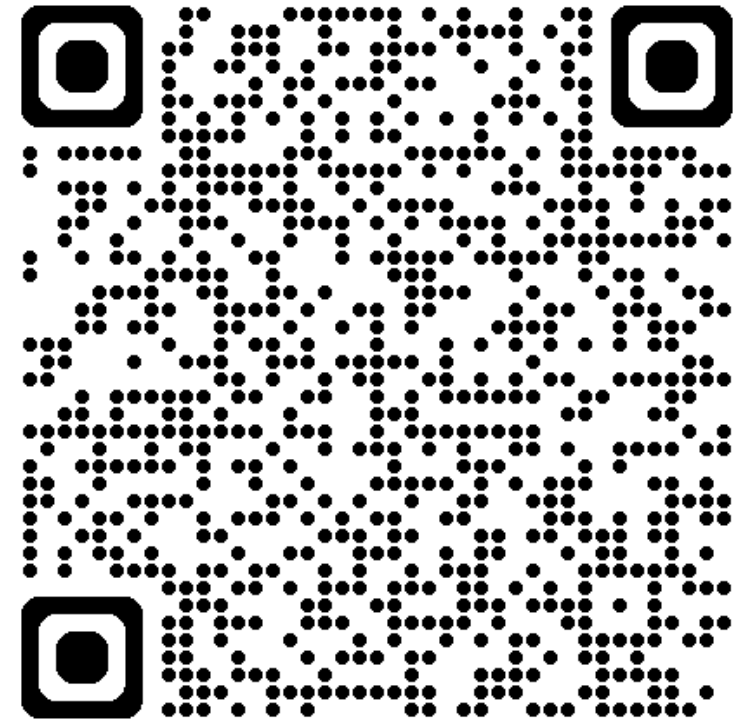
Teen Birth Rate (2017 through 2021)
Compared to State Averages



Safe Schools for Alex School Safety Dashboard

The Safe Schools for Alex School Safety Florida Dashboard is one of the most comprehensive sites for school safety data. The features and functions of the site can be leveraged by a wide array of users who have a stake in school safety. From policymakers to students, the array of metrics and graphic displays can be used to inform and promote school safety work.

www.schoolsafetydashboard.org



Reflection

What stands out on the dashboard?

How could this be used to enhance preparation of educational leaders?

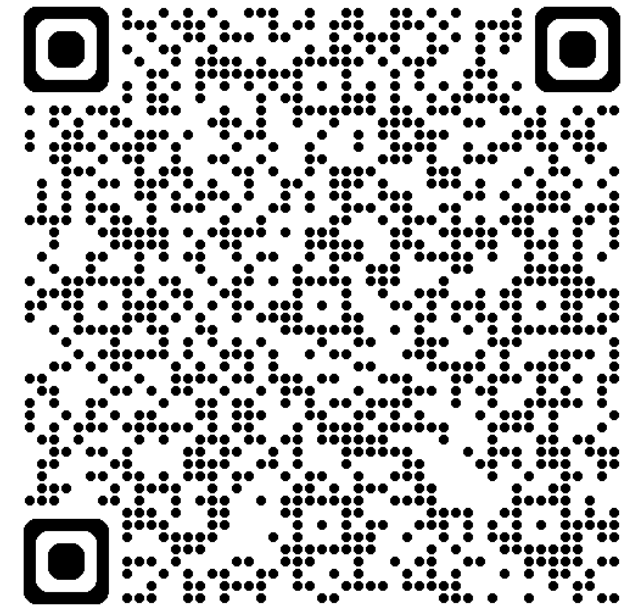
Research

- Curran, F. C., Carlo, S., & Harris-Walls, K. (2024). Making the data visible: A systematic review of systems-level data dashboards for leadership and policy in education. *Review of Educational Research*.
- Cotman, A., Curran, F. C., & Harris-Walls, K. (2024). Examination of state-level school safety data dashboard characteristics. *Education Policy Analysis Archives*, 32.
- Curran, F. C., Boza, L., Harris-Walls, K., & Tan, T. S. (2024). Assessing the Public Availability of School Discipline and Infraction Data. *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, 46(3), 591-599.
- Curran, F. C., Kent, J., Cotman, A. M., & Harris, K. (2024). Cops on Call: Potential Implications of Florida's Expansion of Required Reporting of School Incidents to Law Enforcement. Education Policy Research Center Research Report.

UF School Safety Data Micro Credential

- Asynchronous online learning modules
- 5 modules ranging from school safety data use to school safety action planning
- Interactive and applied school safety data analysis and applications
- Self-paced
- No cost to participants

Register Here



Thanks and Questions

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Director, Education Policy Research Center

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Sources and Methodology

- <https://www.safeschoolsforalex.org/methods-florida-v2/>
- 137 distinct data files

General Methodology					
All statistics on this dashboard are collected or reported by government agencies. This independent dashboard offers an easy way for parents, educators, and community members to examine a collection of data about safety in Florida's schools. We hope that having such a tool provides greater transparency and understanding into what is happening at a particular school, as well as its respective school district, and how the school data compares to similar schools statewide.					
The table below details the source for each metric reported on the dashboard. While all efforts have been made to verify the data included on the dashboard, users are encouraged to confirm specific data points with original data sources. Any discrepancies or issues found in the dashboard can be reported through the feedback portal.					
*Indicates a calculation made on this dashboard. All other metrics were calculated by the source of the data.					
Metric Name	Note	Dashboard Subsection	Source	Reported as	Link to Source
School Name		All	Florida DOE	text	https://eds.fldoe.org/EDS/MasterSchoolID/
Address, Phone and website		Overview – district and school pages	Florida DOE	text	https://eds.fldoe.org/EDS/MasterSchoolID/
Locale	A general geographic indicator that describes the type of area where a school is located	Overview – school pages	National Center for Ed Stats	text	https://nces.ed.gov/programs/edge/Geographic/LocaleBoundaries
School types – Grade Level		Overview – district and school pages	Florida DOE	text	https://eds.fldoe.org/EDS/MasterSchoolID/