

Online Occurrence Reporting System (OORS) Report of Bias-Related Harassment Incidents 2008-2009 Summary Findings

During the 2008-09 school year, the Department of Education conducted its first annual report of incident reports documenting bias-related infractions of the Student Discipline Code. All incident reports were sorted according to the infraction classification levels in the Student Discipline Code. A rigorous reading of incident reports found that of the 130,827 Level 1-5 incidents, the total number of bias-related incidents was 6,207, or 4.7% of behavioral incidents recorded during the 2008-09 school year.

Below are the percentages of bias-related incidents by Incident Level per the Citywide Standards of Discipline and Intervention Measures (The Discipline Code) for all incidents at all grade levels.

Level	% of Bias Related Incidents
1	4.2%
2	12.7%
3	23.3%
4	57.9%
5	1.9%

NOTE: Of the total Level 4 incidents, 55% relate to making sexually suggestive comments, innuendos, propositions or similar remarks or engaging in nonverbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature (e.g. touching, patting, pinching, or lewd or indecent public behavior). 12.7% relate to engaging in intimidating and bullying behavior.

Below are the percentages of bias-related incidents by Incident Level per the Citywide Standards of Discipline and Intervention Measures (The Discipline Code) for Elementary and Secondary grade levels.

Elementary Level: Kindergarten-Grade 5	
Level	Percentage
1	3.7%
2	36.7%
3	24.6%
4	33%
5	2%
Total	100%
Secondary Level: Grades 6-12	
Level	Percentage
1	4.4%
2	5.6%
3	22.5%
4	65.7%
5	1.8%
Total	100%

The categories of bias-related harassment were ranked as follows (in terms of prevalence):

Category	Number	Percentage
Gender	3,646	55%
Race/Color	1,387	21%
GenderIdentity, Gender Expression, Sexual Orientation	862	13%
Ethnicity, National Origin	403	6%
Religion, Creed	222	3%
Disability	138	2%
Total	6,658	100%

NOTE: A total of 6, 207 individual bias related incidents occurred. Incidents that contained evidence of more than one type of bias were counted for each type of bias; hence, the higher number of 6,658 for the total of bias related categories (+451) in the table above.