

# SCHOOL DISCIPLINE DATA TRENDS



AN ISSUE BRIEF FROM LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD STAFF

ID: 3290

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## OBJECTIVE

School districts use in-school suspensions (ISS) and out-of-school suspensions (OSS) to manage student behavior. Districts submit data on these actions to the Texas Education Agency through the Public Education Information Management System.

## KEY FACTS

- ◆ On average, ISS and OSS actions have decreased across Texas from school years 2010–11 to 2014–15.
- ◆ ISS actions are more common than OSS actions across all subgroups and the state average.
- ◆ Rural school districts, on average, issue fewer suspensions than the state average and also showed a decrease during the past five years.
- ◆ Suburban school districts issue more ISS actions than the state average and OSS actions that are consistent with the state average.
- ◆ Urban school districts issue fewer ISS and more OSS than the state average.

## STATUTORY REFERENCES

The Texas Education Code,  
Chapter 37

Texas school districts use a variety of disciplinary actions to manage student behavior, including suspensions. Each year, school districts submit total counts for in-school suspensions (ISS) and out-of-school suspensions (OSS), including demographic information of the students involved, to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) through the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS).

## STATEWIDE TRENDS

The use of ISS and OSS has decreased across the state and within the urban, suburban, and rural district subgroups. **Figures 1 and 2** show the rate of incidents per student for these groups from school years 2010–11 to 2014–15.

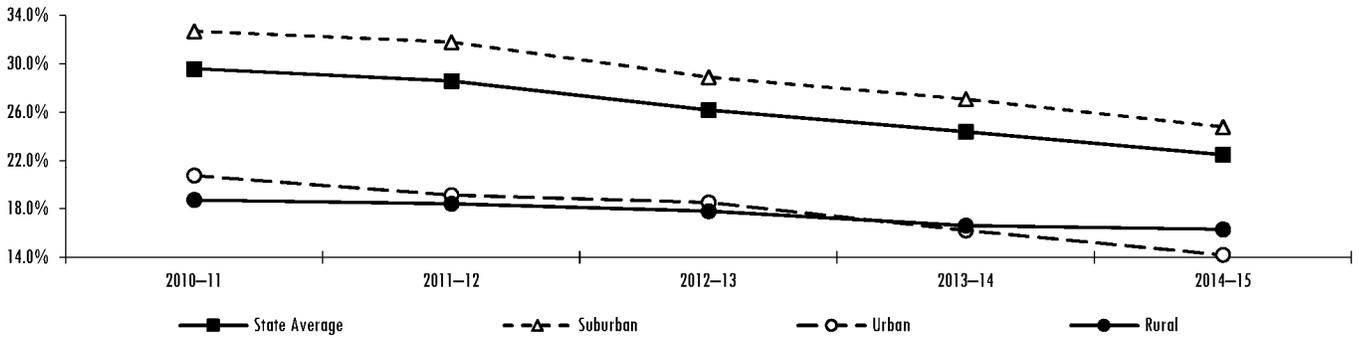
As shown in **Figures 1 and 2**, rates for ISS and OSS across all district types decreased from school years 2010–11 to 2014–15. Rural districts had low rates for both ISS and OSS. Urban districts saw a decrease in ISS rates, with lower rates than suburban districts and the state average for all years and the lowest rates across all districts types in school years 2013–14 and 2014–15. Urban districts had the highest rate of OSS of all groups, meaning that urban districts are more likely to issue OSS than suburban districts, rural districts, or the state average.

## INDIVIDUAL DISTRICTS

On average, rates for ISS and OSS have decreased statewide from school years 2013–14 to 2014–15. However, three large districts (with more than 1,000 students) had more than one suspension (ISS or OSS) per student in school year 2014–15. **Figure 3** shows a comparison of these districts to the state average. These districts have high rates of suspensions, more than double or triple the state average. Although overall rates have fallen from school years 2010–11 to 2014–15 for each district, this decrease has lagged behind the state average.

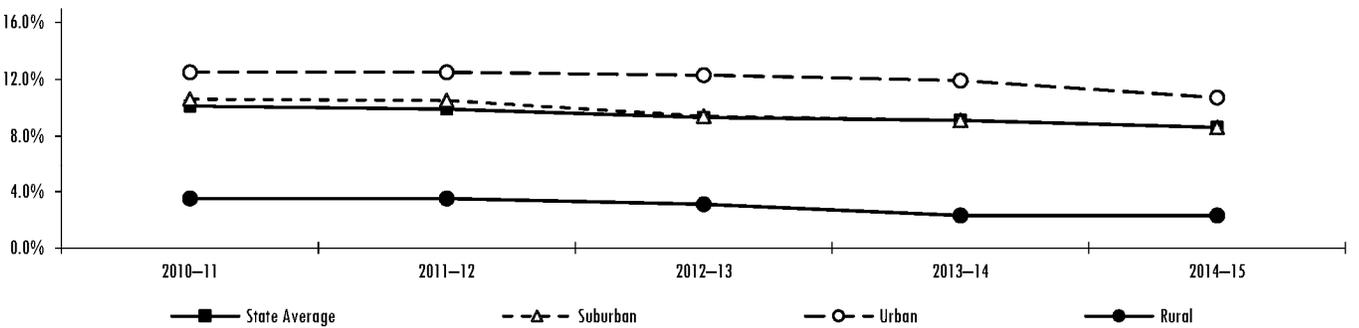
Conversely, some districts decreased ISS and OSS from school years 2010–11 to 2014–15 at rates significantly greater than the state average. Out of 1,024 school districts, 174 (17.0 percent) decreased their suspension rates by more than half during this period.

**FIGURE 1**  
**AVERAGE IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION RATE BY DISTRICT TYPE, SCHOOL YEARS 2010–11 TO 2014–15**



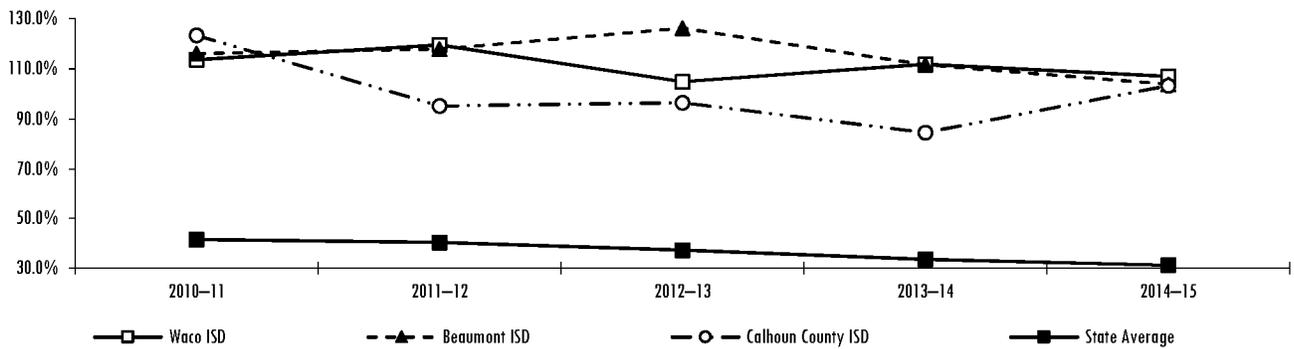
SOURCE: Texas Education Agency.

**FIGURE 2**  
**AVERAGE OUT-OF-SCHOOL SUSPENSION RATE BY DISTRICT TYPE, SCHOOL YEARS 2010–11 TO 2014–15**



SOURCE: Texas Education Agency.

**FIGURE 3**  
**SELECT TEXAS SCHOOL DISTRICTS WITH HIGH SUSPENSION RATES, SCHOOL YEARS 2010–11 TO 2014–15**



SOURCE: Texas Education Agency.

**USEFUL REFERENCES**

*Breaking Schools' Rules: A Statewide Study of How School Discipline Relates to Students' Success and Juvenile Justice Involvement:*  
[csgjusticecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/Breaking\\_Schools\\_Rules\\_Report\\_Final.pdf](http://csgjusticecenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/Breaking_Schools_Rules_Report_Final.pdf)

*Texas' School-to-Prison Pipeline: School Expulsion, The Path from Lockout to Dropout:*

[www.njcn.org/uploads/digital-library/Texas-School-Prison-Pipeline-School-Expulsion\\_Texas-Appleseed\\_Apr2010.pdf](http://www.njcn.org/uploads/digital-library/Texas-School-Prison-Pipeline-School-Expulsion_Texas-Appleseed_Apr2010.pdf)

*Suspended Childhood: An Analysis of Exclusionary Discipline of Texas' Pre-K and Elementary School Students:* [spark.adobe.com/page/6dvQB/](http://spark.adobe.com/page/6dvQB/)

**CONTACT**

Kevin Kromenacker Email: [IssueBrief@lbb.state.tx.us](mailto:IssueBrief@lbb.state.tx.us)