

Suspensions and Expulsions 2019

Enrolments, 2019

In 2019 there were 806,261 students enrolled in NSW government schools.

Year	Enrolments in mid-year census		
	Boys	Girls	All students
K-2	109,605	103,339	212,944
3-6	146,538	136,256	282,794
7-10	119,357	108,780	228,137
11-12	39,447	42,939	82,386
All	414,947	391,314	806,261

Short suspensions, 2019

Short suspensions are up to 4 school days. There were 54,794 short suspensions in 2019. Of these:

- 19,839 were for continued disobedience
- 34,955 were for aggressive behaviour.

(Note: These figures are based on the total number of short suspensions in 2019 and include students placed on short suspension on more than one occasion).

A total of 33,946 students were short suspended. The average length of short suspensions was 3.0 days.

Students receiving short suspensions

Year	Number of students short suspended			% student enrolment
	Boys	Girls	All students	
K-2	2,084	301	2,385	1.1%
3-6	5,846	1,046	6,892	2.4%
7-10	15,798	6,297	22,095	9.7%
11-12	1,836	742	2,578	3.1%
All	25,562	8,384	33,946	4.2%

Long suspensions, 2019

Long suspensions are up to 20 school days.

There were 19,651 long suspensions in 2019. Of these:

- 8,068 were for persistent misbehaviour;
- 8,182 were for physical violence;
- 1,277 were for serious criminal behaviour related to the school;
- 1,085 were for possession or use of a suspected illegal substance;
- 767 were for use or possession of a prohibited weapon, firearm or knife; and,
- 272 were for use of an implement as a weapon, or threatening to use a weapon.

(Note: These figures are based on the total number of long suspensions in 2019 and include students placed on long suspension on more than one occasion).

A total of 14,044 students were long suspended.

The average length of long suspensions was 12.5 days.

Students receiving long suspensions

Year	Number of students long suspended			% student enrolment
	Boys	Girls	All students	
K-2	506	70	576	0.3%
3-6	1,855	270	2,125	0.8%
7-10	7,110	3,015	10,125	4.4%
11-12	909	309	1,218	1.5%
All	10,380	3,664	14,044	1.7%

Aboriginal Students by suspension type and education level, 2019

Aboriginal students account for approximately 8% of all government school student enrolments.

In 2019 there were a total of 64,765 Aboriginal enrolments in NSW government schools. 8,528 Aboriginal students, or 13.2 per cent, received a short suspension. 3,965 Aboriginal students received a long suspension, equivalent to 6.1 per cent of Aboriginal enrolments.

Aboriginal students receiving short suspensions

Year	Aboriginal enrolls	Aboriginal students short suspended	
		#	%
K-2	17,025	765	4.5%
3-6	22,383	2,248	10.0%
7-10	20,671	5,087	24.6%
11-12	4,686	428	9.1%
All	64,765	8,528	13.2%

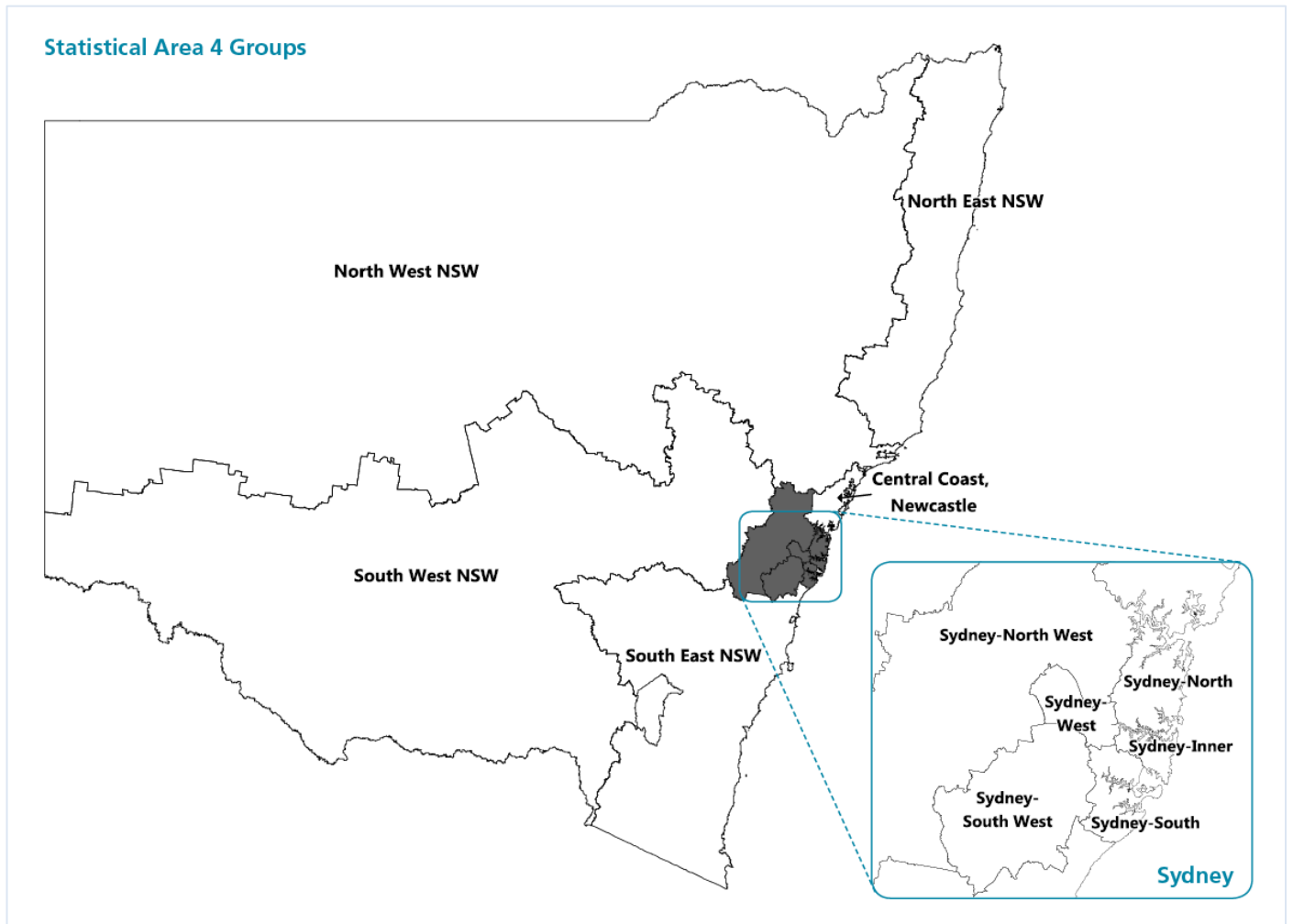
Aboriginal students receiving long suspensions

Year	Aboriginal enrolls	Aboriginal students long suspended	
		#	%
K-2	17,025	183	1.1%
3-6	22,383	770	3.4%
7-10	20,671	2,812	13.6%
11-12	4,686	200	4.3%
All	64,765	3,965	6.1%

Data by SA4 groups, 2019

The NSW Department of Education uses the ABS Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) to report data by geographical area. ASGS Statistical Area 4 (SA4) boundaries in NSW are combined into 11 groups for reporting.

SA4 groups map



Note:

1. In Suspension factsheets from 2013 until 2018, data was published by Family and Community Services districts to assist evidence informed planning and practice across NSW Government agencies. Prior to 2013, suspension and expulsion data was published by region and school education group.

Short suspensions by SA4 group, 2019

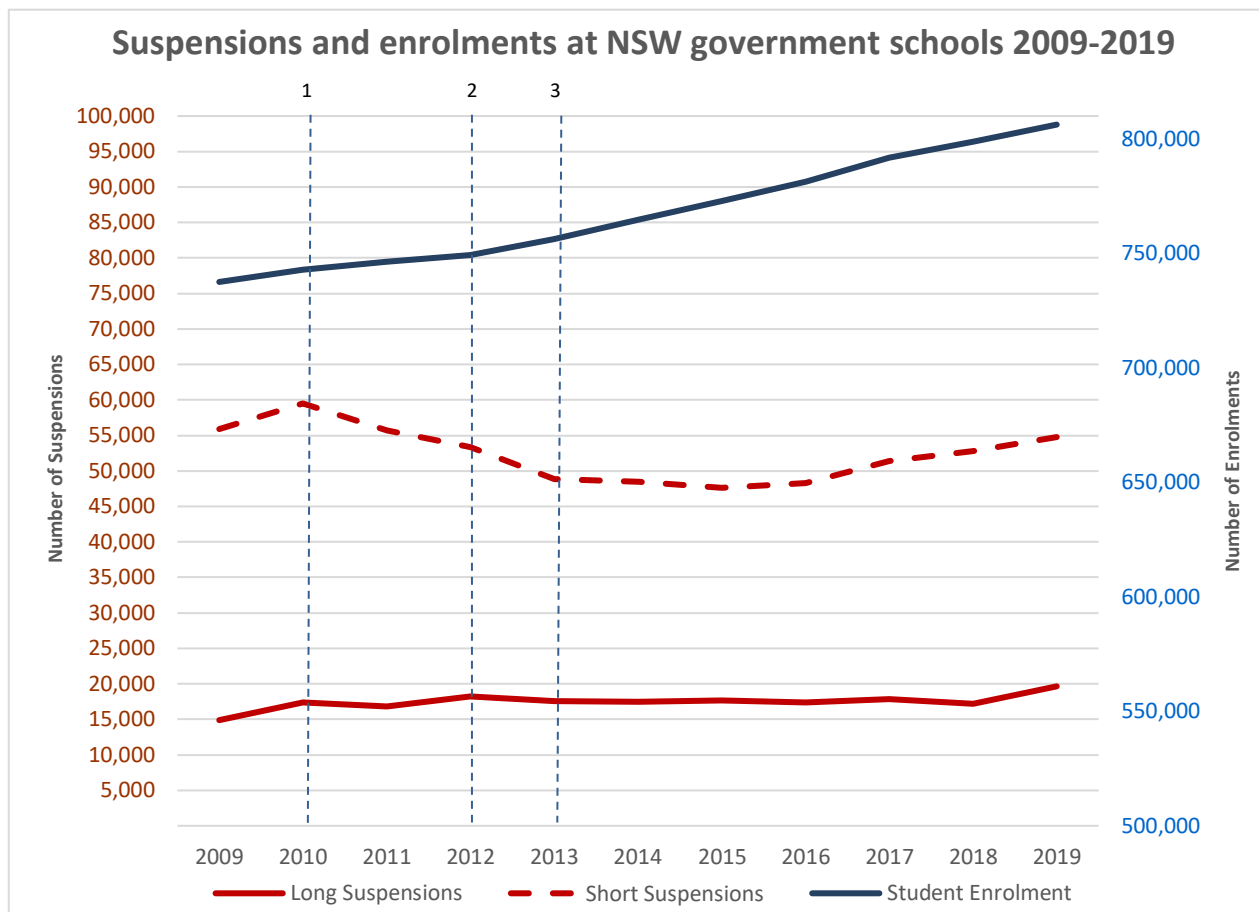
SA4 Group	Total short suspensions	Total number students short suspended	Students short suspended as % of SA4 group enrolment
Sydney-North	1,060	856	0.9%
Sydney-Inner	1,637	1,171	2.0%
Sydney-South	3,326	2,293	3.0%
Sydney-South West	5,918	3,960	4.4%
Sydney-West	4,931	3,098	3.4%
Sydney-North West	3,099	2,083	3.2%
North East NSW	6,861	4,145	6.6%
North West NSW	9,141	5,353	8.1%
South West NSW	5,616	3,284	6.1%
South East NSW	6,658	3,854	5.4%
Central Coast, Newcastle	6,547	3,992	5.0%
Grand Total	54,794	33,946	4.2%

Long suspensions by SA4 group, 2019

SA4 Group	Total long suspensions	Total number students long suspended	Students long suspended as % of SA4 group enrolment
Sydney-North	538	417	0.5%
Sydney-Inner	703	523	0.9%
Sydney-South	974	740	1.0%
Sydney-South West	2,367	1,744	1.9%
Sydney-West	1,274	973	1.1%
Sydney-North West	1,032	800	1.2%
North East NSW	2,523	1,788	2.9%
North West NSW	3,534	2,441	3.7%
South West NSW	2,093	1,379	2.6%
South East NSW	2,291	1,577	2.2%
Central Coast, Newcastle	2,322	1,702	2.1%
Grand Total	19,651	14,044	1.7%

Note:

1. Students who were suspended in more than one school from different SA4 group are counted once in the Grand Total. Therefore the Grand Total may not match the total of the columns above it.
2. Includes students on suspension on more than one occasion.



Notes:

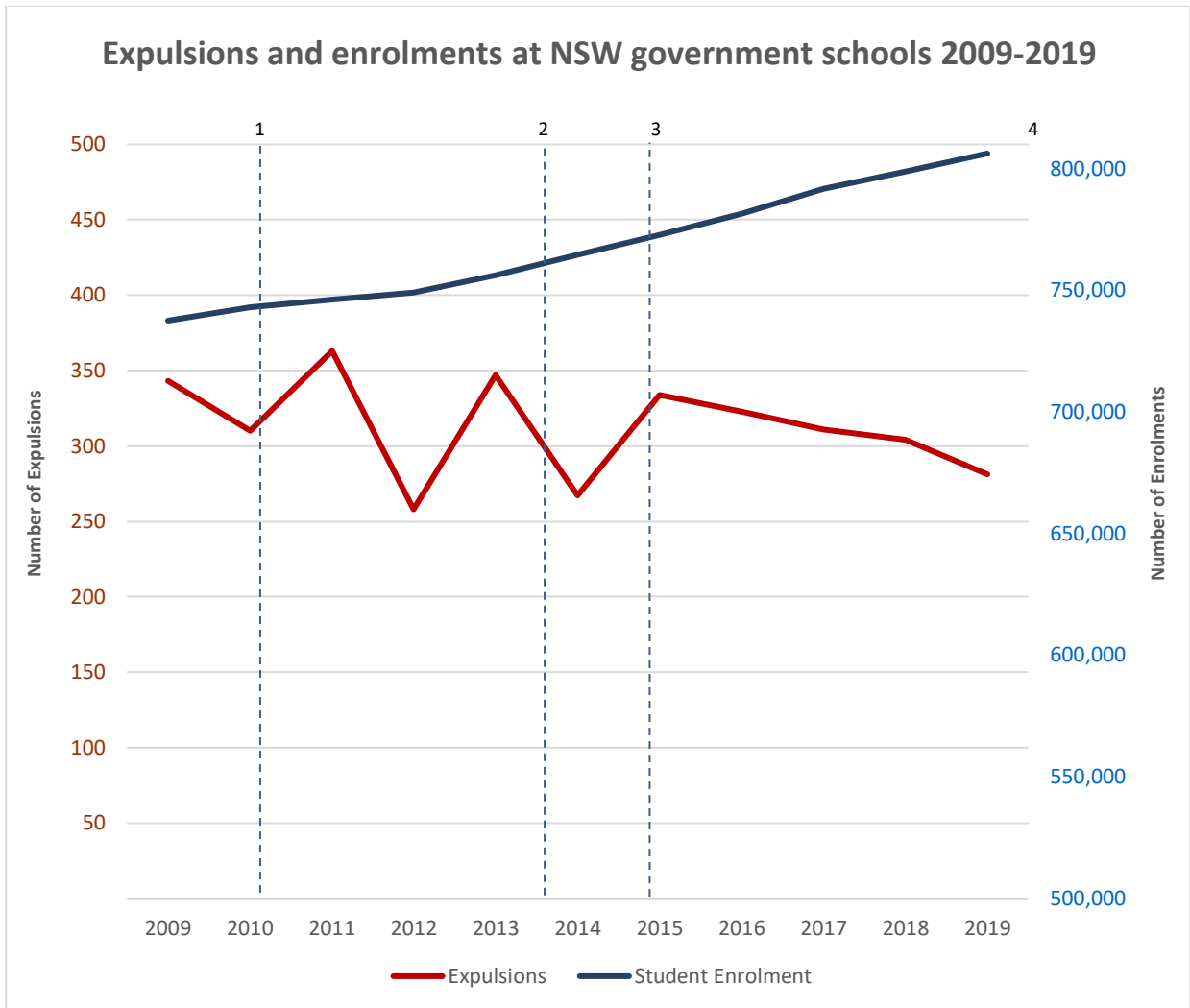
1. In 2010 the school leaving age was raised from 15 years to 17 years.
2. Between 2009 and 2014 there have been changes in the way that suspension data is collected. In 2012 suspension data was harvested from a combination of the Department’s electronic enrolment registration system (ERN) and manual returns. The data prior to 2012 was collected manually.
3. Since 2013, data has been harvested from ERN or the Department’s student administration system SALM/ebs: central, making it more reliable.
4. Both vertical axes have different scales. This should be considered when interpreting the graph.

Expulsions by SA4 Groups, 2019

SA4 Groups	Misbehaviour	Unsatisfactory participation	Total
Sydney-North	<5	<5	n/a
Sydney-Inner	<5	<5	n/a
Sydney-South	<5	11	n/a
Sydney-South West	21	54	75
Sydney-West	<5	<5	n/a
Sydney-North West	6	<5	n/a
North East NSW	22	9	31
North West NSW	21	<5	n/a
South West NSW	7	17	24
South East NSW	26	<5	n/a
Central Coast, Newcastle	42	<5	n/a
Grand Total	164	106	270

Notes:

1. In order to protect individual students' identities, in this table, values 5 and under are represented as <5 and n/a is used in the "Total" column.
2. The figures provided are a count of students who received an expulsion. If a student received more than one expulsion, they will only be counted once.



Notes:

1. In 2010 the school leaving age was raised from 15 years to 17 years.
2. Between 2009 and 2013 there have been changes in the way that expulsion data is collected. From 2012 expulsions were recorded in the Department's Electronic Enrolment Registration (ERN) system. Prior to this, expulsions data was recorded on a manual return. This has potentially impacted consistency across longitudinal data.
3. Since 2013, data has been harvested from ERN, making it more reliable.
4. Both vertical axes have different scales. This should be considered when interpreting the graph.
5. Enrolment figures include Primary ungraded students in Years 3-6, Junior Secondary ungraded students in Years 7-10 and Senior Secondary ungraded students in Years 11-12.