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DANGEROUS WEAPONS INCIDENT REPORT IN MINNESOTA SCHOOLS

1994-1995 SCHOOL YEAR

**MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND LEARNING
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
PREVENTION AND RISK REDUCTION TEAM**

**BRUCE H. JOHNSON, COMMISSIONER
APRIL, 1996**

Weapons in Schools: Comparisons between 1993-1994 and 1994-1995 School Years

	93-94	94-95
Total number of weapons incidents reported by schools from June 1 to May 31:	872	1224
Number of local school districts with at least one incident:	144	156
Number of school districts in Minnesota:	381	385
Percent of school population with one or more reports:	71%	68%
Types of weapons used:		
Firearms	65	54
Knife	459	666
Look-alike guns/Replicas	107	135
Other Weapon ¹	241	369
Age of offenders:		
10 and under	9%	10%
11 to 13	27%	30%
14 to 16	38%	34%
17 to 18	10%	7%
19 and older	<1%	<1%
Unknown	15%	19%
Gender of Offenders:		
Male	76%	80%
Female	12%	14%
Unknown	12%	6%
Student status of offender:		
Student at school of incident	78%	86%
Action taken by school for firearms only incidents:²		
Expelled or transferred	52%	43%
Suspended more than 5 days	23%	36%
Suspended 1-4 days	9%	8%
Other	16%	13%
School reports to law enforcement agencies (all weapons):	54%	48%
School reports to law enforcement agencies (firearms only):³	95%	81%
Arrests made (all weapons):	12%	9%
Arrests made (firearms only):	69%	42%

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¹Other weapons include such things as fire and explosives, blunt objects and other miscellaneous objects that, when used inappropriately can cause injury including chairs, rocks, hammers, pencils/pens and stun-guns.

² Effective 9/95 schools must have a policy to expel students who bring a gun to school, exceptions may be made on a case-by-case basis (M.S. 127.282).

³ Effective 9/95, schools must report firearms to law enforcement (MN Statute 127.48).

INTRODUCTION

By the year 2000, every school in America will be safe, disciplined and drug-free.

National Education Goals

The challenges confronting today's schools are immense. The challenges confronting our children are even greater. Many Minnesota children and youth come to school each day with personal, family, and social problems that interfere with learning, school attendance, progress toward graduation, and future employability. When these stressors are combined with economic uncertainty, absence of at least one caring adult for every youth, and the proliferation of weapons in this country, it is, unfortunately, little wonder that some of our youth are coming to school angry and armed.

WHY YOUTH USE DANGEROUS WEAPONS*

Violence prevention experts (Center for Safe Schools, Oakland CA., 1992, The National Adolescent Health Survey, Oakland, CA. 1989 et al) identify several factors that have contributed to the current rise in weapons use by youth:

1. ***Guns have become an acceptable way of life*** — A 1992 study by the National Rifle Association reported that over 120 million guns are privately owned of which over 50% are estimated to be found in households. It should not be surprising that many guns show up in schools.
2. ***Guns and knives have become a common coping response to violence*** — There is a pervasive attitude nationally that aggressive behavior is an acceptable way to deal with conflict. Students surveyed believe that a weapon is not only helpful, but necessary for protection on the way to, during and from school.
3. ***Guns are a needs-based response*** — Guns are perceived by many youth as fun, and provide an exciting attraction. Other young people feel that prestige and safety can only be achieved through the personal power that guns represent. Still others feel less confidence in their own or adults' ability to solve problems and resolve conflict, and are more confident in navigating through life using aggression and violence.

* Dangerous weapons for the purposes of this report include: firearms; look-alike guns such as toy guns, BB guns, pellet guns; knives; blunt objects; fire/explosives and poison. Personal weapons such as fists and feet are not included.

SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM

National surveys of school-age minors indicate that 15% of those students surveyed carry a gun to school daily. Another 12% indicate carrying a knife or other dangerous weapon. Twenty-two percent of those surveyed say they feel safer having a hand gun or other weapon in their possession when involved in confrontation. A study by the Centers for Disease Control supports these findings by reporting that over 100,000 students carry guns to school daily and that knife possession violations in schools have doubled in the last three years (Harris Survey, 1993., Texas A&M University Study, 1992., Centers for Disease Control, 1993). Reports from the Hennepin County Medical Center have recorded a steady increase in gun-related juvenile victims treated over the past decade.

Minnesota schools, too, are beginning to see their share of dangerous weapons. No part of the state, no matter how heavily populated or isolated, is immune from this problem. During the 1993 and 1994 legislative sessions, Minnesota wrestled with the issue of weapons and escalating violence. One of the actions taken was to require schools to report incidents involving dangerous weapons to the Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning.

The 1995 Minnesota Student Survey shows that student reports of gun carrying are much lower than nationally. Minnesota students who self-reported carrying a gun to school one or more days in the last 30 days included: 1.8% of sixth graders, 4.3% of ninth graders and 2.8% of twelfth graders. This compares to national survey results from the Centers for Disease Control showing that 22.1% of students reported carrying guns in the 30 days preceding the survey. The perception that there are more guns in schools is high among students. According to the 1996 Safe Schools Survey conducted by the Minnesota Attorney General's office, 59% of students either "didn't know" the actual percent or overestimated the actual percent of students carrying guns which is 2.5%.

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report represents the second year that information on dangerous weapons has been reported by Minnesota public schools.

Minnesota Statute 121.207 requires that schools submit reports of dangerous weapons in public schools on February 1 and July 1 of each year (see Appendix A - M.S. 121.207). The purpose of this report is to provide information on the reports received by Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning during the second year of the requirement to report incidents of dangerous weapons in schools. The statute required the Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning to develop a standardized form (see Appendix B - Dangerous Weapons Incident Report Form) to include the following information:

1. a description of each incident, including a description of the dangerous weapon involved in the incident;
2. where, at what time, and under what circumstances the incident occurred;
3. information about the offender, other than the offender's name, including the offender's age; whether the offender was a student and, if so, where the offender attended school; and whether the offender was under school expulsion or suspension at the time of the incident;

4. information about the victim other than the victim's name, if any, including the victim's age; whether the victim was a student and, if so, where the victim attended school; and if the victim was not a student, whether the victim was employed at the school;
5. the cost of the incident to the school and to the victim; and
6. the action taken by the school administration to respond to the incident.

In order to streamline the data collection process for schools and to get more accurate, timely and complete information, the Minnesota Department of Children, Families and Learning combined the weapons reporting form with the expulsion/suspension form effective January 1, 1995.

WEAPONS REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

This is the second annual summary of reports of dangerous weapons incidents in school zones. It covers the period from June 1, 1994 to May 31, 1995. The report has been designed to summarize the data collected and provide some preliminary analysis. In addition there is a comparison chart showing 1993-94 data compared to data in this report.

Each public school is required to report incidents involving the use or possession of a dangerous weapon in school zones to the Commissioner of Children, Families and Learning by February 1 and July 1 of each year. The Commissioner compiles the information received from the schools and reports it annually to the Commissioner of Public Safety, the Criminal and Juvenile Information Policy Group, and the Minnesota State Legislature.

LIMITATIONS OF THE DATA

The quality of the data in this report is limited by a number of factors including:

- Incomplete reporting
- Missing data on submitted reports
- Two different reporting forms used for same reporting period

Incomplete reporting and missing data on reports submitted remains a problem. Out of a total of 385 Minnesota school districts, 156 districts reported at least one weapons incident. Some districts had no incidents of weapons or may have failed to inform staff of the reporting requirements.

Another limitation of the data was created when the department, in an effort to become more efficient and reduce paper work, combined the weapons incidents reporting form with the suspension-expulsion report. The old forms were used for the first half of the reporting period and the new forms were used for the second half of the reporting period. The new reports included additional questions and revisions of existing questions. In putting this report together, the data from the two forms was combined. From this combination, some variables had to be re-coded to match existing variable wording.

All data were carefully scrutinized for coding errors and re-categorized when necessary. For example, when a BB gun was categorized by a school as a firearm, this was re-coded as a look-alike gun.

It is equally important to understand that comparisons between districts are not likely to be valid due to reporting inconsistencies. Simply put, some districts numbers may reflect better reporting mechanisms or are the results of having strong policies already in place. Lower numbers may reflect less rigorous reporting. Only summary data is presented in this report.

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE REPORT

There were **1224** weapons incident reports from local schools for the reporting period June 1, 1994 to May 31, 1995, an increase from 872 from the 1993-94 school year. Better reporting practices from the schools can also explain the increase.

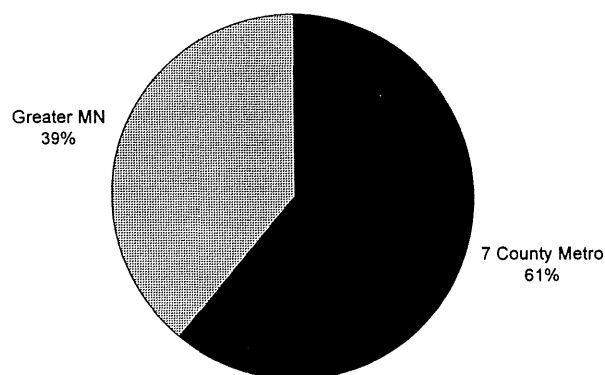
Of the 385 local school districts in 94-95, 156 reported at least one weapon incident during the reporting period. The 156 districts represented 42% of Minnesota school districts, an increase from 38% in 93-94. The 156 districts also represent 68% of the student population in Minnesota. School districts from 67 out of 87 counties were represented in the report. The reports varied from incidents involving water guns or cap guns, to loaded handguns being brought to school with the intent to harm others.

GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF INCIDENTS

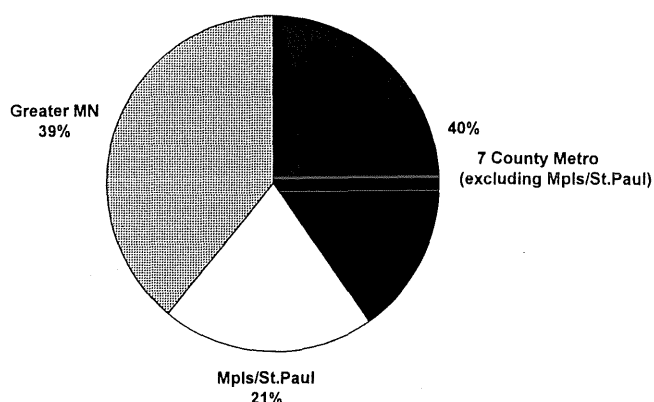
This data first shows the geographic distribution of all weapon reports. The following chart shows the distribution of reports in the seven county metro area, and Greater Minnesota.

Sixty-one percent of all weapon incidents reports were from the seven county metro area. The number of incidents reported from the Greater Minnesota area decreased slightly from 42% in 93-94 to 39% in 94-95.

Geographic Distribution



Geographic Distribution



Further analysis of the geographic distribution of weapons incidents shows that schools in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area contributed 21% of the state reports, an increase from 13% in 1993-94. The remaining seven county metro area (excluding Minneapolis/St. Paul) showed a decrease from 45% in 93-94 to 40% in 94-95.

PERCENT OF INCIDENTS COMPARED TO ENROLLMENT DATA

Based on the total number of weapon reports, 40% were from the seven county metro area (excluding Minneapolis/St. Paul), 21% were from Minneapolis and St. Paul, and 39% were from Greater Minnesota. These compare to the total student enrollment in the following manner:

The seven county metro area (excluding Minneapolis/St. Paul), enrolled 36% of the state's public schools student population but accounted for 40% of the incidents. The Minneapolis and St. Paul school districts together enroll 10% of the state's student population while reporting 21% of the state's weapons incidents. The Greater Minnesota area enrolled 54% of the state's students and reported 39% of the incidents.

There appears to be very little variation between the 1993-94 and 1994-95 data in the number and types of weapons based on geographic distribution.

Another measure of concentration of weapons reporting is the number of districts with high numbers of weapons reports. Of the 156 districts reporting incidents, 37% reported only one incident, 35% reported 2-5 incidents and the remaining 28% of the districts reported six or more incidents. This factor is, of course, also influenced by the size of the district.

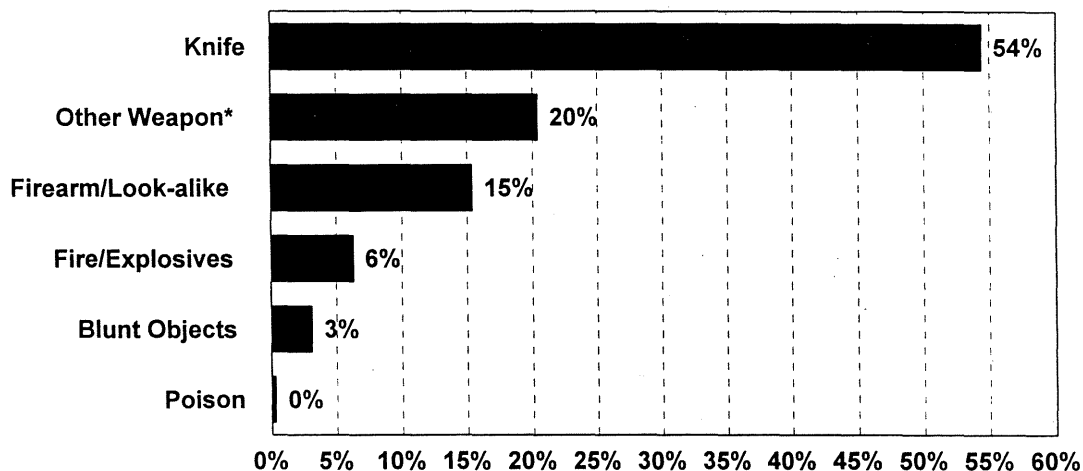
The Number of Districts Reporting 0-50+ Incidents

Number of Incidents Reported	Number of the Districts
No Incidents Reported	229
1	57
2-5	55
6-10	16
11-20	14
21-30	8
31-50	2
50+	4
Total	385

TYPES OF DANGEROUS WEAPONS REPORTED

Of the 1224 reports of dangerous weapons, six (6) categories or types of weapons emerged. School officials reported knife (54%) incidents as the most prevalent weapons involved in incidents.

Types of Dangerous Weapons



* Other weapons include such things as fire and explosives, blunt objects and other miscellaneous objects that, when used inappropriately can cause injury including chairs, rocks, hammers, pencils/pens and stun-guns.

Note: For a frequency distribution of weapon type, see Appendix C.

LOCATION OF INCIDENTS

Most of the dangerous weapons incidents occurred during the school day and within the school buildings, representing a potential for violence to students, faculty, property and an interruption of the learning process.

The four most common sites for all weapons, firearms only and look-alike guns only in rank order were:

All Weapons	Firearms (only)	Look-Alike Guns (only)
Classroom (26%)	Hallway (24%)	Hallway (24%)
Hallway (22%)	Parking Lot (15%)	Classroom (22%)
Other Indoor Location (11%)	Classroom (13%)	School Bus (10%)
Other Outdoor Location (10%)	Other Outdoor Location (13%)	Other Outdoor Location (9%)

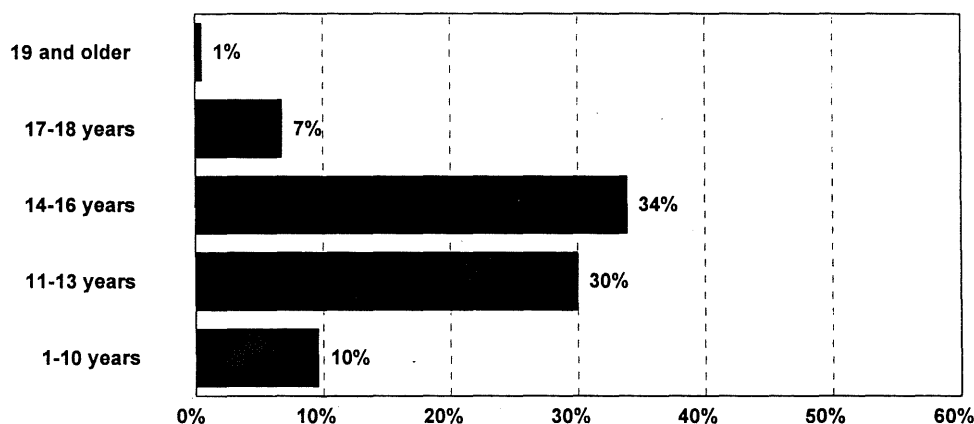
This data is consistent with the 1995 Safe School Survey conducted by the Attorney General's office which noted hallways as a frequent site for violence. Students perceived hallways/staircases as sites for violence 79% of the time.

OFFENDER INFORMATION

The number of offenders involved in dangerous weapon incidents who were enrolled in the school of incident increased from 78% in 93-94 to 86% in 94-95. In 1994-95, only 2% of the offenders were either outside visitors (1%) or students who had been expelled from the school where the incidents occurred (1%). Twelve percent of the reports did not identify the student status of the offender.

The number of male offenders decreased from 76% in 93-94 to 80% in 94-95. The data also reveals that over 64% of the offenders were in the 11-16 age range, a decrease from 67% in 93-94. Nineteen percent of the reports did not include offender age information.

Age of Offenders

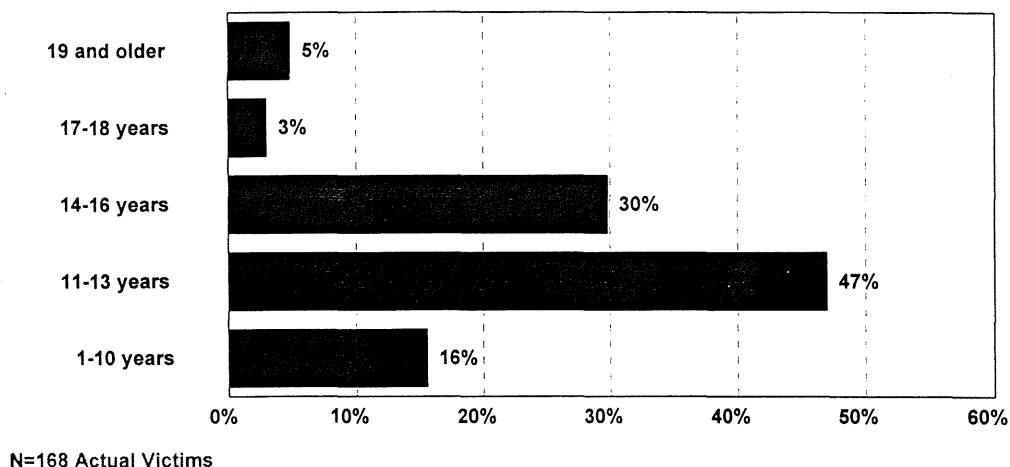


N=989

VICTIM INFORMATION

Eighty-six percent of the 1224 incidents **did not** report data in this category . This could be interpreted as there were no "victims," that districts were unaware of the impact; or there was confusion about defining "victims." Of the 14% that did report victim information, the age distribution is shown in the following table.

Age of Victims



The chart above illustrates that the greatest percentage of actual victims reported were in the 11-13 age group (47%) while 30% were in the 14-16 year old age range, 16% were in the 10 and under age group, 3% were in the 17-18 age group and 5% were in the 19 and over age group. These statistics represent actual victims rather than percent of reports.

ACTION TAKEN BY SCHOOLS

Of the 1224 incidents reported involving dangerous weapons, school officials reported that 11% of the offenders were expelled and an additional 35% received five or more days of school suspension. It should be noted that districts' first action in serious disciplinary actions is usually suspension. During the suspension time period districts may make determinations regarding expulsions. It is possible that some incidents, initially reported as suspension, later result in expulsion. School district reports were fairly complete in this area, with only 5% of districts reporting taking no action or supplying no data.

Offenders received the following consequences

Expelled	11%
Five or more days of suspension	35%
One to four days suspension	37%
Less than one day suspension	1%
Reprimand	11%
No Action/Missing Data	5%

REPORTS TO LAW ENFORCEMENT

Of the 1224 dangerous weapon reports received, 48% resulted in reports to law enforcement and 9% resulted in an arrests. These arrests were most likely to involve firearms and/or look-alike guns.

COSTS TO SCHOOLS

Very few schools reported any cost data. Some cost data might not have been available when the report was filed. However, there also may have been some confusion on what to report. Only 4% of the weapons-related incidents had reported impact on school property.

A CLOSER LOOK AT WEAPONS CATEGORIES

Of all incident reports submitted, 54% involved knives and 15% involved firearms and look-alike guns. The next sections examine differences in weapons patterns based on particular subgroups of weapons. Detailed information about incidents involving these weapons, age of offender, consequences and reporting to law enforcement is presented in the Appendix D, Tables 1-4.

FIREARMS AND LOOK-ALIKE GUNS

This combined category represents 188 incidents. Look-alike guns included replicas, BB guns, pellet guns, and toy guns. Together firearms and look-alike represent a total picture of gun carrying discovered and reported by local school districts. Arguably, the most dangerous and frightening incidents are those involving firearms and look-alike guns.

FIREARMS

Firearms represent the most severe form of weapon carrying and use. There were 53 reports that involved firearms. Over 80% of these firearm incidents involved handguns.

Firearm violations were reported as significantly greater for age group 14-16 years (56%). Though the middle school age offenders (11-13 years) are responsible for less incidents, they are nonetheless significant (15%) as one-sixth of the firearm incidents in schools. There were no firearm possessions during this reporting period for students 10 and under.

Of the 54 firearm incidents it appears that only seven were not officially reported to law enforcement. Twenty-two resulted in arrests, 16 of the reports resulted in no arrest and for 16 of the reports the outcome was unsure or pending.

Schools are more likely to take more severe action and report to law enforcement when the incident involves a firearm. It is also appears that law enforcement is more likely to arrest when the weapon is a firearm.

A new state law requires expulsion for weapon carrying, except for specific school sponsored activities or case-by-case exceptions. The law, Minnesota Statute 127.282, went into effect September 1, 1995. It is expected that 100% of districts will show expulsion when the weapon is a firearm.

LOOK-ALIKE

A total of 135 reports involved look-alike guns. Look-alike guns produced reports to law enforcement in 51% of the cases and resulted in arrest 10% of the time. It appears that BB guns and replica guns do not result in arrests very often, even though it is a felony to possess them in school zones.

KNIVES

The data indicate that 54% of the dangerous weapons incidents involved knives. The data show an involvement by the less than 10 year-old age group (elementary school) of 12% and 11-13 year old group 29% (middle school). Although 38% of the knife incidents involved the 14-18 year old age group (high school), it appears that the "weapon of choice" among younger children is knives.

From the data it appears that knives are the most common weapons carried across age groups. While the "victimless" incidents reported far exceed those having victims. Knife carrying may represent a significant threat to students and contribute to findings from multiple studies that show many students feel unsafe at school.

OTHER WEAPON

Other weapons include such things as fire and explosives, blunt objects and other miscellaneous objects that, when used inappropriately can cause injury including chairs, rocks, hammers, pencils/pens and stun-guns.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The goal must be to assure the protection of all K-12 students and staff.

1. *Maintain no tolerance for weapons in the hands of children*

Increasing numbers of weapons in the hands of children is a concern for most people independent of their politics toward guns and gun control. The recent media coverage of a young child bringing a loaded gun to school for “show and tell” highlights the problem. All weapon violations need to be accurately documented and reported. Adults are encouraged to teach children what to do when they find a gun and to report who has guns and other weapons in school. School staff should protect the identity of students who report other students who carry weapons. Attitudes need to be challenged that perpetuate the notion that weapons, particularly guns, are a sign of strength and power. Students need whatever support necessary to fall safe in school without a weapon.

2. *Review and enhance security measures*

It will be a challenge for schools to continue to be a welcoming environment and maintain security as they are open longer and offer more community-wide services and events. It's important for schools to enhance physical security such as improving traffic flow in the building, monitoring hallways through video and/or actual observation, having more locked doors or exit only doors, providing more security after hours, and requiring photo identification for all permanent and temporary staff, and badges for all visitors. Some schools are also exploring use of tools such as bus cameras and metal detectors increased commons and hallway supervision and increasing law enforcement. It may also be useful to offer more personal safety/self-defense training for students. Schools should be prepared to deal with the media in the event of a crisis.

3. *Increase emotional and physical safety on school buses*

School staff should establish and communicate clear rules and behavioral expectations for students on buses. All drivers should be trained on the necessity to report violations of behavioral expectations and equally enforce all rules. Schools should seek caring adults to be bus stop greeters and to ride along.

4. *Protect all from hate crimes*

Messages that in any way condone, encourage or tolerate the use of verbal and physical violence due to religion, race, culture, language, socio-economic status, sexual orientation, beliefs and gender greatly impact students. Such actions should be prohibited by policy and procedure. It is critical that the linkages between intolerance, hate and violence are understood and the schools and communities do not allow the perpetration of hate crimes.

5. *Concentrate not on fear of violence, but promotion and prevention activities*

Adults and students need to be educated about what they can do to affect positive change. Focus on giving children, families and communities skills, opportunities, and environments that are safe and nurturing.

6. *Address short-term and long-term safety measures to eliminate violent behaviors and attitudes*

Short-term solutions to violence involve immediate responses such as an emphasis on conflict resolution, peer mediation, arbitration and restorative justice. Long-term solutions of shifting attitudes and behaviors ultimately are needed in order to create safe and nurturing schools. Many schools have had great success with liaison officers. Originally, the role of liaison officers was prevention through building caring relationships with students as a way to build trust and increase security. The role can also be intervention and protection.

7. *Maintain a healthy, positive school climate that rejects violence in any form*

Schools should communicate clear rules and consequences regarding violence and create a structure that not only de-escalates conflict but maintains consistent and reasonable expectations for all. In this spirit punishment should be a last resort after all attempts at conflict resolution, mediation, arbitration and restorative interventions have failed. Schools should promote a nurturing, respectful climate in which everyone at all levels learns to treat others as they want to be treated and non-violent resolution to conflict is valued.

These recommendations were excerpted from the Minnesota Department of Education's Violence Prevention Plan for Schools that was released in February, 1995. Due to the limitations of the data, specific recommendations are not likely to be useful on a statewide basis. However, local school districts upon reviewing data should construct meaningful local interventions from those suggested above.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

Minnesota Statute 121.207 **REPORTS OF DANGEROUS WEAPON INCIDENTS IN SCHOOL ZONES.**

Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** As used in this section:

- (1) "Dangerous weapon" has the meaning given it in section 609.02, subdivision 6;
- (2) "School" has the meaning given it in section 120.101, subdivision 4; and
- (3) "school zone" has the meaning given it in section 152.01, subdivision 14a, clauses (1) and (3).

Subd. 2. **Reports; content.** On or before January 1, 1994, the commissioner of education, in consultation with the criminal and juvenile information policy group, shall develop a standardized form to be used by schools to report incidents involving the use or possession of a dangerous weapon in school zones. The form shall include the following information:

- (1) a description of each incident, including a description of the dangerous weapon involved in the incident;
- (2) where, at what time, and under what circumstances the incident occurred;
- (3) information about the offender, other than the offender's name, including the offender's age; whether the offender was a student and, if so, where the offender attended school; and whether the offender was under school expulsion or suspension at the time of the incident;
- (4) information about the victim other than the victim's name, if any, including the victim's age; whether the victim was a student and, if so, where the victim attended school; and if the victim was not a student, whether the victim was employed at the school;
- (5) the cost of the incident to the school and to the victim; and
- (6) the action taken by the school administration to respond to the incident.

Subd. 3. **Reports; filing requirements.** By February 1 and July 1 of each year, each school shall report incidents involving the use or possession of a dangerous weapon in school zones to the commissioner of education. The reports shall be made on the standardized forms developed by the commissioner under subdivision 2. The commissioner shall compile the information it receives from the schools and report it annually to the commissioner of public safety, the criminal and juvenile information policy group, and the legislature.

127.282 EXPULSION FOR POSSESSION OF FIREARM.

(a) Notwithstanding the time limitation in section 127.27, subdivision 5, a school board must expel for a period of at least one year a pupil who is determined to have brought a firearm to school except the board may modify this expulsion requirement for a pupil on a case-by-case basis. For the purposes of this section, firearm is as defined in United States Code, title 18, section 921.

(b) Notwithstanding chapter 13, a student's expulsion or withdrawal or transfer from a school after an expulsion action is initiated against the student for a weapons violation under paragraph (a) may be disclosed by the school district initiating the expulsion proceeding. Unless the information is otherwise public, the disclosure may be made only to another school district in connection with the possible admission of the student to the other district.

127.48 POLICY TO REFER FIREARMS POSSESSOR.

Each school board must have a policy requiring the appropriate school official to, as soon as practicable, refer to the criminal justice or juvenile delinquency system, as appropriate, any pupil who brings a firearm to school unlawfully.

APPENDIX B

Incident number: _____

use the same incident number for all forms
where multiple offenders/victims are involved

Disciplinary Incident/Dangerous Weapons Report

revised January 26, 1996

ED-02136-03

two-sided form
page 1 of 2

This report is to be completed and returned to the Department of Children Families and Learning within 30 days of final disposition of action taken by school district authorities following an incident of misbehavior which results in student out-of-school suspension, expulsion, or exclusion, or any incident which involves dangerous weapons. Incident information is required pursuant to Minnesota Laws: 1994, Chapter 647, Article 3, Section 25; M.S. Sections 127.26 to 127.39; Civil Rights Act of 1964; and the weapons-related information as required pursuant to the Federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965, as amended to include the Gun-Free Schools Act, and M.S. Section 121.207, Subd.2.

District Number: _____ District Type: _____ School Building Number: _____ School Name: _____

INCIDENT INFORMATION:

Provide the information requested. If the information is unknown, check the "UNKNOWN" box or leave blank.

Date of Incident: ____/____/____ Time of Incident: ____:____ ☐ A.M. ☐ P. M.
month day year hour minutes

Category of Incident: Identify the primary category which best describes the incident. See descriptions attached to this form.

- | | | | | |
|---|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Assault Physical | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Attendance | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Statutory Violation (drugs/tobacco) | <input type="checkbox"/> 7 Property Related | <input type="checkbox"/> 9 Other |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Disrespect and/or Defiance | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Sexual Violence | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 Safety | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 Order | <input type="checkbox"/> 10 Assault Verbal |

Dangerous Weapons: Identify the MOST dangerous weapon involved in this incident.

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 No weapon involved | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 Replica Firearm | <input type="checkbox"/> 11 Motor Vehicle (used as a weapon) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Handgun | <input type="checkbox"/> 7 Other firearm | <input type="checkbox"/> 12 Flammable liquid |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Rifle | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 Personal Weapon (hands/feet/teeth) | <input type="checkbox"/> 13 Poison (includes gas) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Shotgun | <input type="checkbox"/> 9 Knife/Cutting instrument | <input type="checkbox"/> 14 Explosives |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 B-B gun | <input type="checkbox"/> 10 Blunt Object | <input type="checkbox"/> 15 Other |

Location of the incident: Identify the area where the incident occurred. Choose the area of the greatest difficulty for the incident.

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Hallway | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 Cafeteria | <input type="checkbox"/> 11 Indoor Athletic/Extra Curricular Area |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Restroom | <input type="checkbox"/> 7 Classroom | <input type="checkbox"/> 12 Outdoor Athletic/Extra Curricular Area |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Parking Lot | <input type="checkbox"/> 8 Library | <input type="checkbox"/> 13 Other Indoor Area |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Study Hall | <input type="checkbox"/> 9 Gymnasium | <input type="checkbox"/> 14 Other Outdoor Area |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5 School bus | <input type="checkbox"/> 10 Laboratory | |

Cost result of the incident: (Use your best estimate to report in whole dollars, no cents.)

Cost of the incident to the School: \$ _____ Cost of the incident to the victim: \$ _____

INFORMATION ON THE INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED:

Provide information on each individual involved. If the information is unknown, leave the area blank.

OFFENDER INFORMATION: Fill out one form per offender per incident. For situations involving multiple offenders use the same incident number. Attach all forms with the same incident number together when mailing.

Local Student ID number: _____ (13 digits allowed) Age: _____ Gender: ☐ 1 Male ☐ 2 Female

Offender Race: The manner of determining this information is left to the district policy or may be assigned based on sight.

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 American Indian or Alaska Native | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Hispanic | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 White, not Hispanic origin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Asian or Pacific Islander | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Black, not Hispanic origin | |

Offender Status:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Non-student | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 Student of another school |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Student of school of incident | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 Under expulsion/suspension/exclusion from another school |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Under expulsion/suspension/exclusion from school of incident | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 Offender status unknown |

Offender's school district number: _____ Offender's District type: _____ Offender's School building number: _____
Offender's School Name _____

If you do not know the building numbers, contact your MARSS Coordinator.

more ➡

Select the item which most closely describes the disciplinary action taken by school officials toward the incident offender. Choose the one selection which completes the action taken in this incident:

- 1 ☐ Out-of-school suspension Number of days suspended: ____ (number may not exceed 15 days)
- 2 ☐ Expulsion Beginning date: ____ / ____ / ____ to Ending date: ____ / ____ / ____
 month day year month day year
- 3 ☐ Exclusion Beginning date: ____ / ____ / ____ to Ending date: ____ / ____ / ____
 month day year month day year
- 4 ☐ No action taken

1 ☐ YES 2 ☐ NO Does this student have an IEP (receiving special education services) or a Section 504 Accommodation Plan?

Primary Disability: Check the primary disability/enrollment status of the individual:

- 1 ☐ Speech/Language 6 ☐ Visually Disabled 11 ☐ Autistic
2 ☐ Mild-Moderate Mentally Disabled 7 ☐ Specific Learning Disabilities 12 ☐ Early Childhood Special Education
3 ☐ Moderate-severe Mentally Disabled 8 ☐ Emotional Disorder(s) 13 ☐ (Not applicable 1995-96)
4 ☐ Physically Disabled 9 ☐ Deaf-Blind 14 ☐ Traumatic Brain Injury Disabled
5 ☐ Hearing Impaired 10 ☐ Other Health Impaired 15 ☐ Section 504 Accommodation Plan

VICTIM INFORMATION: Include the first victim of this incident on the same form as the offender. Thereafter, fill out one form per additional victim(s) for the incident, using the same incident number from the front of the form. Attach the forms for all individuals involved in the same incident and send together when mailing.

- YES ☒ NO ☐ Was there a victim(s) involved? If no, skip to the last section. If there is more than one victim, use additional forms for additional victims. Use the same incident number for all involved.

Victim's age: _____ Victim's Gender: 1 ☐ Male 2 ☐ Female Victim's School Name: _____

Victim's school district: _____ District type: _____ School Building Number _____

Victim's status:

- 1 ☐ Staff Member of school district
2 ☐ Student of school of incident
3 ☐ Current student of another school
4 ☐ Victim status unknown

INTERVENTION ACTION:

- 1 ☐ YES 2 ☐ NO Was a referral made to the criminal justice or juvenile delinquency system?

- 1 ☐ YES 2 ☐ NO Is there an intervention plan to reduce the possibility of a recurrence of this or similar incident?

VERIFICATION OF INFORMATION:

Please print: **Name of person completing this form:** _____

Phone number: _____ Fax number _____

I hereby verify this information to be accurate and true to the best of my knowledge:

Signature: _____ Date: / /

Thank you for providing this information. By doing so, we are able to meet State and Federal regulations for reporting information about students in Minnesota schools.

urn to: Minnesota Children, Data Management
840 Capitol Square Building
550 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55101

To obtain instructions and assistance with the **alternative electronic reporting system using the INTERNET and MN.Quick.Link** contact:
Nancy Carlson, 612-296-5289, or e-mail address: nancy.carlson@state.mn.us.

DEFINITIONS:

IN-SCHOOL SUSPENSION:

This category deleted January, 1996.

SUSPENSION:

(M.S. 127.27, Subd. 10)

"Suspension" means an action taken by the school administration, under rules promulgated by the school board, prohibiting a pupil from attending school for a period of no more than ten school days. If a suspension is longer than five days, the suspending administrator must provide the superintendent with a reason for the longer suspension. This definition does not apply to dismissal from school for one school day or less. Each suspension action shall include a readmission plan. The readmission plan shall include, where appropriate, a provision for alternative programs to be implemented upon readmission. Suspension may not be consecutively imposed against the same pupil for the same course of conduct, or incident of misconduct, except where the pupil will create an immediate and substantial danger to surrounding persons or property. In no event shall suspension exceed 15 school days, provided that an alternative program shall be implemented to the extent that suspension exceeds five days.

SUSPENSION FOR ONE DAY:

A suspension that does not meet the definition above but does result in prohibiting a student from attending class or being in the school building for a period of one school day.

EXPULSION:

(M.S. 127.27, Subd. 5) Expulsion means an action taken by a school board to prohibit an enrolled pupil from further attendance for a period that shall not extend beyond an amount of time equal to one school year from the date a pupil is expelled.

EXCLUSION:

(M.S. 127.27, Subd. 4) Exclusion means an action taken by the school board to prevent enrollment or re-enrollment of a pupil for a period that shall not extend beyond the school year.

EXCLUSION AND EXPULSION OF PUPILS WITH A DISABILITY:

(M.S. 127.281) When a pupil who has an individual education plan is excluded or expelled under sections 127.26 to 127.39 for misbehavior that is not a manifestation of the pupil's disabling condition, the district shall provide special education and related services after a period of suspension, if suspension is imposed. The district shall initiate a review of the pupil's individual education plan within ten days of the commencement of an expulsion, exclusion, or suspension of ten days or more.

EXPULSION FOR POSSESSION OF FIREARM:

(M.S. 127.282) (a) Notwithstanding the time limitation in section 127.27, Subd 5, a school board must expel for a period of at least one year a pupil who is determined to have brought a firearm to school except the board may modify this expulsion requirement for a pupil on a case-by-case basis. For the purposes of this section, firearm is defined in United States Code, title 18, section 921.

SCHOOL:

(M.S. Section 120.101, Subd. 4) ...a "school" means a public school, as defined in section 120.05, or a nonpublic school, church or religious organization, or home-school in which a child is provided instruction in compliance with sections 120.101 and 120.102.

SCHOOL ZONE:

(M.S. Section 152.01, Subd. 14a, clauses (1) and (3))

"School zone" means: (1) any property owned, leased, or controlled by a school district or an organization operating a nonpublic school, as defined in Section 123.932, Subdivision 3, where an elementary, middle, secondary school, secondary vocational center or other school providing educational services in grade one through grade 12 is located, or used for educational purposes, or where extracurricular or cocurricular activities are regularly provided; (2) NOT APPLICABLE; (3) the area within a school bus when that bus is being used to transport one or more elementary or secondary school students.

DANGEROUS WEAPONS:

(M.S., Section 609.02, Subd. 6) "Dangerous weapon" means any firearm, whether loaded or unloaded, or any device designed as a weapon and capable of producing death or great bodily harm, any combustible or flammable liquid or other device or instrumentality that, in the manner it is used or intended to be used, is calculated or likely to produce death or great bodily harm, or any fire that is used to produce death or great bodily harm.

As used in this Subdivision, "flammable liquid" means any liquid having a flash point below 100 degrees Fahrenheit and having a vapor pressure not exceeding 40 pounds per square inch (absolute) at 100 degrees Fahrenheit but does not include intoxicating liquor as defined in Section 340.101. As used in this Subdivision, "combustible liquid" is a liquid having a flash point above 100 degrees Fahrenheit.

Pursuant to M.S. 609.66, Subd. 1d, dangerous weapons also include replica firearms (as defined in M.S. 609.713), and B-B guns which fire or eject a shot measuring .18 of an inch or less in diameter.

GROUND FOR DISMISSAL:

(M.S. 127.29) Subdivision 1. No school shall dismiss any pupil without attempting to provide alternative programs of education prior to dismissal proceedings, except where it appears that the pupil will create an immediate and substantial danger to self or to surrounding persons or property. Such programs may include special tutoring, modification of the curriculum for the pupil, placement in a special class or assistance from other agencies.

Subd 2. A pupil may be dismissed on the following grounds:

- (a) Willful violation of any reasonable school board regulation. Such regulation must be clear and definite to provide notice to pupils that they must conform their conduct to its requirements;
- (b) Willful conduct which materially and substantially disrupts the rights of others to an education;
- (c) Willful conduct which endangers the pupil or other pupils, or the property of the school.

DISCIPLINARY INCIDENT CATEGORIES

CATEGORY OF INCIDENT:

(Resulting in Suspension/Expulsion/ Exclusion): Terms used for stating reasons for suspension/expulsion/exclusion are as follows (use the most serious category only):

Assault - Physical:

A violent physical attack upon another; physical harm to another; an unlawful threat to harm another physically or an attempt to do so.

Examples are: direct attack on an adult or student with or without a weapon; unprovoked attack upon another student without a weapon; fighting; pushing, shoving, scuffling; poking/unfriendly touching; biting; spitting; threat of physical assault.

Assault - Verbal:

A violent verbal attack upon another.

Examples are: verbal abuse or verbal harassment of another student; profanity (not directed at an adult).

Disrespect/Defiance:

Failure to show consideration/courtesy for others; to intrude upon or molest others; to excessively challenge or resist school authority; to defy school rules and authority.

Examples are: forgery or alteration of notes, signatures, excuses or other school documents; cheating; misrepresentation of the truth - lying; defiance - failure to comply with a reasonable request or order given by school personnel; disrespect and/or verbal abuse toward school personnel; persistent lack of cooperation; serious infraction of standards of behavior or appearance; gestures of defiance.

Attendance:

Failure to attend school/class as required by state and local regulations; unauthorized absence from school; tardiness in school class attendance.

Examples are: Truancy; unauthorized absence from school campus; skipping classes; tardiness; unauthorized presence in an area or presence in an unauthorized area.

Sexual violence:

Sexually derogative behavior toward another; indecent exposure; inappropriate touching of another body; verbal or written obscene comments or descriptions.

Examples are: verbal, written or drawn obscene comments or depictions; sexual assault or sexual misconduct; sexually inappropriate touching, pinching or grabbing; indecent exposure; presence in opposite sex toilet areas; possession, exhibition, distribution or sale of sexually explicit materials.

Statutory Violations:

Possession, use or sale of substances specifically prohibited in law, e.g., dangerous weapons, drugs, alcohol, tobacco products, etc.

Examples are: Possession of a dangerous weapon; possession or use of alcohol, controlled substances, or mood altering substances, or misuse of prescription drugs; sale or attempted sale of alcohol, controlled substances, mood altering substances, or prescription drugs; use of tobacco in the school building or unauthorized areas; gambling.

Safety:

Actions or activities which endanger the student or others or which jeopardize the safety of students and/or school district personnel.

Examples are: Arson or possession or use of fireworks, ammunition, or other explosives; setting off or attempting to set off a false fire alarm; throwing or dropping objects likely to result in injury to other students, school personnel, or school property; willful or negligent behavior that endangers the safety or welfare of other students, school personnel or school property; bringing unsafe objects to school; running.

Property Related:

Actions which endanger property of the school district or individuals.

Examples are: Extortion; vandalism - damaging or defacing school property; theft of school district property; theft of personal property of other students or school personnel; unauthorized use of school property or equipment.

Order:

Willful disruption of the rights of others or the school in providing a learning environment.

Examples are: Willful disruption of classes or assemblies; disrupting or interfering with other individuals.

Other NOT Listed Above:

Serious infraction of any school rule or for any good cause not specifically stated above. This reason is to be used for unique or unusual situations not listed above. DO NOT use this reason to indicate situations where more than one of the reasons above applies.

APPENDIX C

DANGEROUS WEAPONS INCIDENT REPORT

(June 1, 1994 - May 31, 1995)

Reports of Dangerous Weapons Submitted: 1224

Types of Weapons(s) Involved	Number	Percent
Firearm	54	4.4
Knife	666	54.4
Blunt object	38	3.1
Poison	4	.3
Fire and explosives	77	6.3
Look-alike guns/BB gun/pellet	135	11.0
Other weapon*	250	20.4

Other weapons include miscellaneous objects that, when used inappropriately can cause injury including chairs, rocks, hammers, pencils/pens and stun-guns.

Location of Incident	Number	Percent
Hallway	267	21.8
Rest Room	32	2.6
Parking Lot	53	4.3
Study Hall	10	.8
School Bus	116	9.5
Cafeteria	55	4.5
Classroom	315	25.7
Library	5	.4
Gymnasium	22	1.8
Laboratory	1	.1
Other Indoor (Athletic)	13	1.1
Outdoor Athletic	42	3.4
Other Indoor	132	10.8
Other Outdoor	117	9.6
Missing Data	44	3.6

Results of Incident	Number	Percent
Minor Physical Injury	69	5.6
Serious Physical Injury	3	.2
Death	0	---
Damage to School Facility	21	1.7
Damage to Other School Property	15	1.2
Damage to Personal Property	9	.7
No Injury/No Damage/Missing Data	1107	90.4

Cost of Incident to School: Only 4%reported loss to school

Cost of Incident to Victims: Only 4% reported loss to the victim

Action Taken By School	Number	Percent
Expelled or transferred	138	11.3
Suspended five or more days	424	34.6
Suspended 1 to 4 days	448	36.6
Less than one day suspension	11	.9
Reprimand; parent conference	135	11.0
Unknown/No action	27	2.2
Missing Data	41	3.3

Report Filed Yes: 586 (48%) No: 489 (40%) Missing Data: 149 (12%)

Arrest Made Yes: 106 (9%) No: 818 (67%) Missing Data: 300 (25%)

Offender Information:

No offender information was given on 19% of the reports

Age	Number	Percent
0 - 10	118	9.6
11 - 13	367	30.0
14 - 16	415	33.9
17 - 18	83	6.8
19 and up	6	.5

Gender	Number	Percent
Male	981	80.1
Female	176	14.4
Missing Data	67	5.5

Student Status	Number	Percent
Non-student	8	.7
Student of school of incident	1052	85.9
Under expulsion/suspension from school of incident	13	1.1
Current student of another school	4	.3
Under expulsion/suspension from another school	1	.1
Student status unknown	1	.1
Missing Data	145	11.8

Victim Information:

No victim information was given on 86% of the reports

Age	Number	Percent
0 - 10	26	2.1
11 - 13	79	6.5
14 - 16	50	4.1
17 - 18	5	.4
19 and up	8	.7

Gender	Number	Percent
Male	147	12.0
Female	75	6.1
Missing Data	1002	81.9

Student Status	Number	Percent
Non-Student	25	2.0
Student of school of incident	184	15.0
Under expulsion/suspension from school of incident	1	.1
Under expulsion/suspension from another school	5	.4
Missing Data	1009	82.4

APPENDIX D

DETAILED DATA OF SUB GROUPS OF INCIDENTS

BY CATEGORY OF WEAPONS

GUNS-FIREARMS AND LOOK-ALIKE

Table 1

This combined category represents 189 incidents.

Age distribution of offenders

Age	Number	Percent
10 and under	11	5.9
11 - 13	54	28.7
14 - 16	72	37.8
17 - 18	16	8.5
19 and up	2	1.1
Missing Data	34	18.1

Action taken by school districts

Action	Number	Percent
Expelled or Transferred	45	23.9
Suspended five or more days	61	32.4
Suspended one to four days	47	24.9
Less than 1 day suspension	2	1.1
Reprimand	25	13.3
Unknown	8	4.3
Missing Data	1	.1

Actual numbers of victims reported

Age	Number
10 and under	2
11 - 13	7
14 - 16	1
17 - 18	1
19 and up	3

Report Filed Yes: 112 (59%) No: 58 (31%) Missing Data: 19 (10%)

Arrest Made Yes: 35 (19%) No: 116 (62%) Missing Data: 38 (20%)

FIREARMS

Table 2

This category represents 54 incidents.

Age Distribution of Offenders

Age	Number	Percent
10 and under	---	---
11 - 13	8	14.8
14 - 16	30	55.5
17 - 18	9	16.7
19+	1	1.9
Missing	6	11.1

Action Taken by Schools

Action	Number	Percent
Expelled/Transferred	23	42.5
Five or more days Suspension	19	35.2
One to four days Suspension	5	9.3
Less than 1 day suspension	---	---
Reprimand	6	11.1
Unknown/Missing Data	1	1.9

Report Filed Yes: 43 (80%) No: 7 (13%) Missing Data: 4 (7%)

Arrest Made Yes: 22 (41%) No: 16 (30%) Missing Data: 16 (30%)

LOOK-ALIKE GUNS

Table 3

This category represents 135 reported incidents for look alike, BB guns and Pellet guns.

Age of offenders

Age	Number	Percent
10 and under	11	8.1
11 - 13	46	34.1
14 - 16	42	31.1
17 - 18	7	5.2
19 and up	1	.1
Missing Data	28	20.7

Action taken by schools

Action	Number	Percent
Expelled or Transferred	22	16.3
Five or more days suspension	42	31.1
One to four days suspension	42	31.1
Less than 1 day suspension	2	1.5
Reprimand	19	14.1
Unknown/Missing	8	5.9

Report Filed Yes: 69 (51%) No: 51 (38%) Missing Data: 15 (11%)

Arrest Made Yes: 13 (10%) No: 100 (74%) Missing Data: 22 (16%)

KNIVES
Table 4

This category represents 666 incidents.

Age of offenders

Age	Number	Percent
10 and under	77	11.6
11 - 13	195	29.3
14 - 16	214	32.1
17 - 18	41	6.2
19+	2	.1
Missing Data	137	20.6

Action taken by school districts

Action	Number	Percent
Expelled/Transferred	72	10.8
Five or more days suspension	271	40.7
One to four days suspension	193	28.9
Less than 1 day suspension	7	1.1
Reprimand	87	13.1
Unknown/Missing	36	5.4

Report Filed Yes: 340 (51%) No: 243 (37%) Missing Data: 83 (12%)

Arrest Made Yes: 45 (7%) No: 468 (70%) Missing Data: 153 (23%)

APPENDIX E

FACTS FROM THE MINNESOTA STUDENT SURVEY, 1995:

The Minnesota Student Survey provides a comprehensive picture of Minnesota youth. The survey was administered in the spring of 1995 to all 6th, 9th and 12th grades in Minnesota public schools. The following results are summarized from the 1995 survey.

School Climate:

- 92% of respondents felt safe in school.

Students who are threatened:

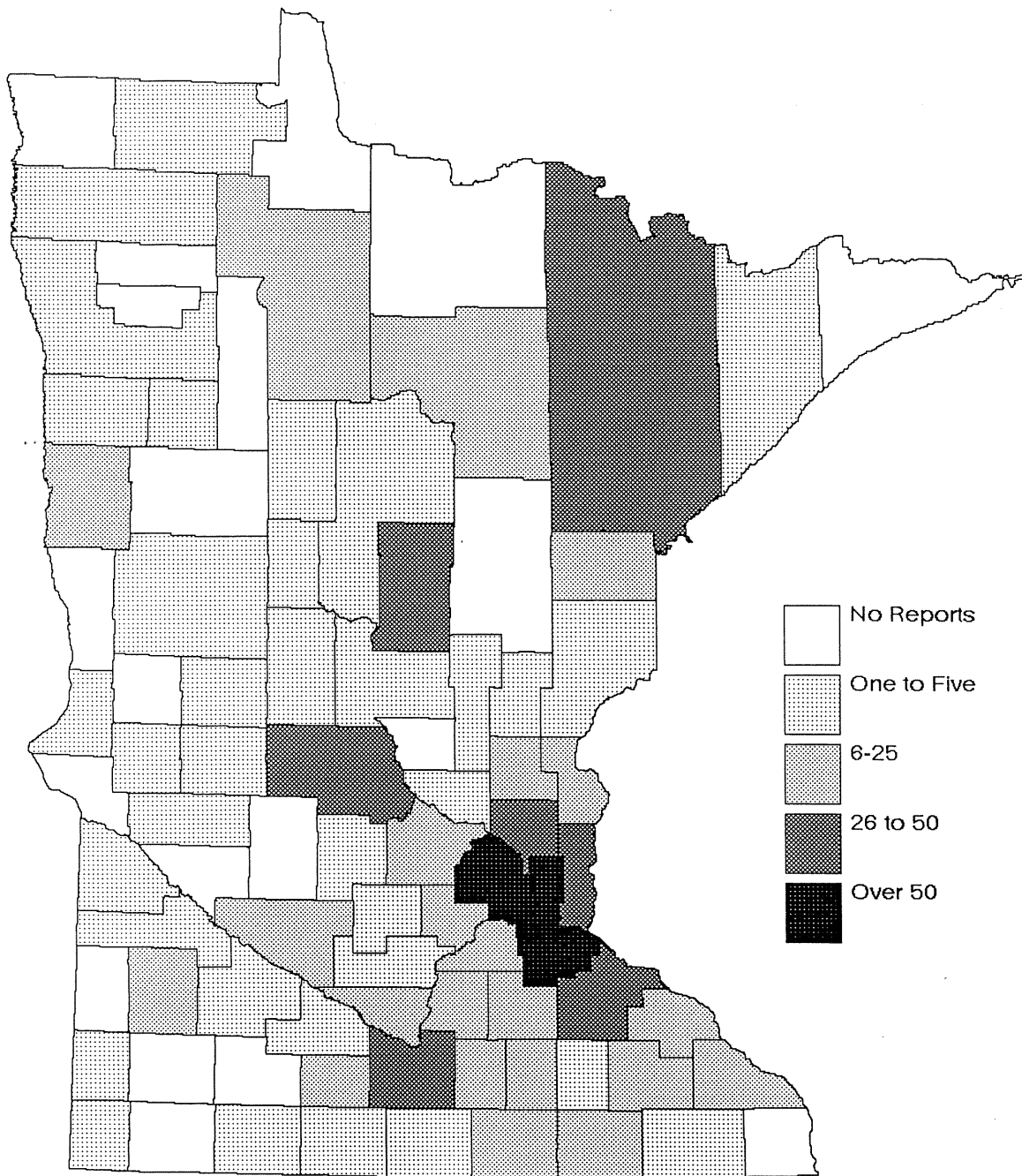
- 64% of respondents said they had been threatened on school property by another student within the last 12 months.
- 7% of respondents said someone had threatened or injured them with a weapon such as a gun, knife or club on school property one or more times during the last 12 months.
- 48% of respondents said they had been pushed, shoved or grabbed by another student within the last 12 months.
- 29% of respondents said they had been kicked, bitten, or hit by another student within the last 12 months.
- 2% of respondents said they had been stabbed or had a gun fired at them by another student within the last 12 months. (N=2,753)

Students who threaten others:

- 2.5% of respondents said they had carried a gun on school property one or more times in the last 30 days. (N=3,127)
- 8% of respondents said they had carried a weapon (other than a gun) on school property one or more times in the last 30 days. (N=10,420)
- 35% of respondents said they had hit or beat up another person in the last 12 months.

Appendix F

Number of Incidents (1994-95)



DATANET PLUS MAPPING

N = 1224

Department of Children, Families and Learning

DATANET
Plus
MAPPING

LAND MANAGEMENT INFORMATION CENTER

**Dangerous Weapons Incidents in Schools by County
School Year 1994-1995**

Anoka	43	Mower	9
Beltrami	21	Nicollet	8
Blue Earth	27	Norman	1
Brown	3	Olmsted	22
Carlton	22	Otter Tail	4
Carver	11	Pine	2
Cass	3	Pipestone	1
Chisago	14	Polk	1
Clay	13	Pope	2
Crow Wing	26	Ramsey	196
Dakota	96	Redwood	3
Dodge	2	Renville	6
Douglas	1	Rice	24
Faribault	2	Rock	1
Fillmore	1	Roseau	1
Freeborn	7	Scott	9
Goodhue	35	Sherburne	2
Hennepin	342	Sibley	5
Hubbard	4	St Louis	33
Isanti	19	Stearns	46
Itasca	6	Steele	9
Jackson	1	Stevens	1
Kanabec	1	Swift	3
Lac Qui Parle	1	Todd	1
Lake	1	Traverse	1
Le Sueur	11	Wabasha	11
Lyon	9	Wadena	3
Mahnomen	3	Waseca	7
Marshall	1	Washington	50
Martin	2	Watsonwan	9
McLeod	2	Winona	6
Meeker	1	Wright	8
Mille Lacs	3	Yellow Medicine	3
Morrison	2		

TOTAL = 1224

This report was prepared by:

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St. Paul, MN 55101
(612) 296-9010

www.educ.state.mn.us

1996 Legislative Reports: Estimated Cost of Preparation

The 1994 Legislature enacted, at Chapter 559, Section 1, a provision which provides as follows:

"A report to the legislature must contain, at the beginning of the report, the cost of preparing the report, including any costs incurred by another agency or another level of government."

The following are costs incurred in the preparation of this report.

MDE Personnel Cost		
Data Analyst	\$2,500	
Report Writer	800	
Supervisor	200	
Secretarial	<u>300</u>	
		\$ 3,800
Printing		
School district reporting form, and final summary report		500
Other Costs		
Data entry	\$2,000	
Data preparation	<u>800</u>	
		<u>2,800</u>
Total Department Children, Families and Learning Cost		<u><u>\$ 7,100</u></u>