

A Question Of Suspensions

Some school districts frequently suspend very young children while others rarely do so. Districts are required to report inside and outside suspensions to the state for violent offenses only. The actual numbers of suspensions of young children are higher but exact figures were not available. A sampling of the number of suspensions from a few districts from 2003-04 (the latest available year):

District	Pre-K	Kindergarten	First grade	Total suspensions*
Waterbury	0	6	365	371
Hartford	5	83	169	257
Bridgeport	0	41	112	153
New Haven	0	41	98	139
New Britain	0	8	19	27
West Hartford	0	0	3	3
State	8	320	1,035	1,363

YOUNG CHILDREN SUSPENDED

In 2003-2004, Hartford school officials suspended students in pre-kindergarten, kindergarten and first grade a total of 547 times. They were required to report 257 of the inside and outside suspensions to the state because of the violent nature of the offenses. A breakdown follows of those offenses in Hartford for 2003-2004, the last year for which statistics are available:

	Pre-K	Kindergarten	First grade	Total
Number of Suspensions	5	83	169	257
Robbery	0	0	1	1
Burglary	0	0	1	1
Theft	0	1	6	7
Threat/intimidation	0	15	30	45
Sexual harassment	0	1	6	7
Harassment/bullying	1	9	7	17
Sexual offense	1	2	2	5
Vandalism	1	6	10	17
School threat	0	1	1	2
Fight/altercation	2	47	104	153
Weapon possession (knife)	0	1	0	1
Drug/Alcohol possession	0	0	1	1

*Some students were suspended more than once.